TUESDAY
January 3, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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THE HINDU

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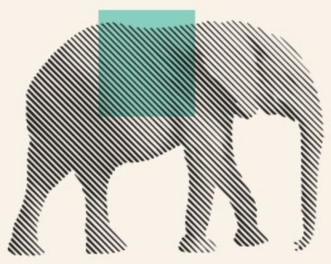

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RAHUL'S TAKE

'China is adopting same policy as Russia'

NEWS » PAGE 11

TAMING GAMERS

Govt. mulls new policy on online gaming

NEWS » PAGE 12

IMF WARNING

'A third of the global economy will be hit'

BUSINESS » PAGE 14

EDUCATION WATCH

When degrees lose their worth

Devaluation of degrees is associated with lowering of standards

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

HOME CHALLENGE

India meets Sri Lanka in the first T20I today

SPORT » PAGE 15

SC majority ruling finds no flaw in 2016 demonetisation process

The sole woman judge on the five-member Bench, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, disagrees with the majority, saying the Union government's notification issued under the Section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act was unlawful

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A majority of four judges on a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday found no flaw in the Union government's process to demonetise ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes through a Gazette notification issued on November 8, 2016.

The sole woman judge on the five-member Bench, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, however, disagreed with the majority, saying the government's notification issued under Section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act was unlawful.

Justice B.R. Gavai, delivering the judgment for the majority, which included Justices S. Abdul Nazeer, A.S. Bopanna, and V. Ramasubramanian, pronounced that the statutory procedure under Section 26(2) was not violated merely because the Centre had taken the initiative to "advise" the Central Board to consider recommending demonetisation.

Differing, Justice Nagarathna said the Centre could have issued a notification under Section 26(2) only if the Central Board of the RBI had initiated the proposal to demonetise a specified series of banknotes by way of a recommendation. Here, in 2016, the government had initiated the demonetisation, not the Central Board.

In cases in which the government initiates demonetisation, Justice Nagarathna said, it should take the opinion of the Central Board. The opinion of the Board should be "independent and frank". If the Board's opinion was in the negative, the Centre could still go forward with the demonetisation exercise, but only by promulgating an ordinance or by enacting parliamentary legislation.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Judgment notes

In a 4:1 verdict, the Supreme Court upheld the demonetisation process. A snapshot of the majority and dissenting observations

Justice B.R. Gavai (for the majority): Demonetisation notification does not suffer from any flaw in the decision-making process; satisfies the test of proportionality

- The contention that the notification is liable to be set aside on the ground that it caused hardship to individual citizens will hold no water. Individual interests must yield to the larger public interest sought to be achieved

Justice B.V. Nagarathna (dissenting): The RBI Act does not envisage initiation of demonetisation of bank notes by the Centre. Sub-section (2) of Section 26 of the Act, contemplates demonetisation of bank notes at the instance of the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India

'RBI had seen note ban as an opportunity'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The majority judgment of the Supreme Court on Monday details extensively the documents placed on record by the government to conclude that the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was very much in the loop before recommending demonetisation. The Central Board had found the proposal as an opportunity to further financial inclusion, the court said.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 11

6 killed as terrorists strike twice in J&K's Rajouri in 15 hours

High alert: Army personnel stand near the house where an IED explosion took place, at Dangri village in Rajouri district. PTI

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Two persons (minors) were killed and four were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off on Monday in Rajouri's Dangri village, just within 15 hours of militants swooping down from forests and killing four civilians and injuring six on Sunday, taking the death toll to six in the twin attacks.

The IED explosion took place around 9.45 a.m. outside the house of Rajendra Kumar, whose son Deepak Kumar was among the four people killed in the militants' indiscriminate firing on Sunday.

"It was a well-planned attack. The IED was planted to inflict casualties on the police, and senior officers were likely its target," Director-General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Petition in HC against tender to procure buses

BENGALURU
The Karnataka HC on Monday ordered issue of notice to the State government and BMTC, on a PIL petition questioning a tender to procure 840 buses without complying with norms to make them disabled-friendly. » PAGE 2

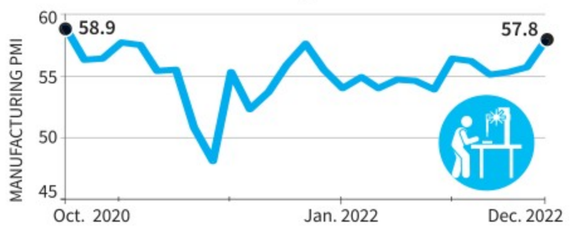
Gang of five makes off with ₹80 lakh

BENGALURU
Posing as policemen, a gang of five persons robbed ₹80 lakh from the driver and the employee of an arecanut businessman in Wilson Garden police station limits recently. » PAGE 5

Manufacturing ends 2022 on a high note

Sharp growth

S&P Global's survey-based Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) signalled that manufacturing output accelerated to a reading of 57.8 in December, a 26-month high



The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector recorded its sharpest uptick in output in 13 months in December 2022, with new orders rising at the fastest pace since February 2021 though selling prices surged more than input costs for the first time in two-and-a-half years, as per the S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

B.Tech student stabbed to death on university campus on city outskirts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old B.Tech student was stabbed allegedly by her friend multiple times at a private university on the outskirts of the city on Monday. The accused also attempted to end his life by stabbing himself, said the police.

Panic gripped the other students of Presidency University when they noticed the duo lying in a pool of blood and alerted the security staff. The security officials shifted them to a private hospital, where the doctors declared the victim, Laya Smitha, as brought dead.

However, the accused, identified as Pawan Kalyan, 21, who suffered from a stab injury on the chest, is being treated at the hospital.

The spot at Presidency University where the incident occurred.

Ms. Smitha was pursuing B.Tech at Presidency University, while the accused was a BCA student from a different college. He would come to meet Ms. Smitha often, the police said.

Both are from a village in Mulbagal taluk of Kolar district.

The Rajanakunte police have registered a case of murder and attempt to suicide and are awaiting to question the accused to ascertain the reason behind the attack. The management of Presidency University was not ready to comment on the incident. After repeated attempts, Mrinmoy Biswas, Registrar for Accreditations and Corporate Relations of the university, said: "The police inquiry is going on and we don't comment on this incident in the midst of it."

Siddeshwar Swami passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Sri Siddeshwar Swami, seer of the Sri Jnana Yogashrama of Vijayapura, well known for his scholarly discourses, passed away at the ashrama there on Monday. He was 81 and unwell for some time.

Deputy Commissioner of Vijayapura Vijay Mahantesh Danammanavar said that the final rites of the seer, who had a large following, will be held in Vijayapura on Tuesday, at 5 p.m.

He was a powerful orator who held month-long discourses in cities and villages. He was loved by his devotees in Karnataka and Maharashtra and other States as well. And, a large number of people thronged to hear him speak.

Siddeshwar Swami

Hailing from Bijjaragi in Vijayapura district, he spent over 67 years as a monk. He was well versed in Kannada, Marathi, English, Sanskrit and Urdu. He used anecdotes from all sacred texts in his speeches.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

Taking to the skies from tribal heartland

Children of Villumala tribal hamlet in Kerala ring in 2023 with lessons in rocketry, in the first in a series of science camps planned to enhance scientific temper among forest communities

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The New Year brought in a good measure of novelty to the tribal children of Villumala in Thenmala forest division of Kerala's Kollam district. The 40-odd school students of the tribal hamlet marked the occasion by foraying into the basic concepts of space science, astronomy and rocketry.

The Kerala Forest Department collaborated with the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) in Thiruvananthapuram to conduct a camp that focused on the basics of rocket design and launch. The three-day programme that concluded on Monday was the first in a series planned by the department's Eco-Development and Tribal Welfare wing to enhance scientific temper among forest-dependent communities.

Dreaming high: The government hopes to hold science camps in all 350 tribal settlements with the help of reputable organisations.

Titled *Arivanka Karumam* (Knowledge Village in the dialect of the native Kanikkar tribe), the science camp had students interacting with scientists of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, led by its Director, S. Unnikrishnan Nair.

The participants capped their training by designing a water rocket with the guidance of experts from the VSSC and the IIST. The residents of the hamlet also got to do some stargazing with a telescope. The children turned an excited lot after they were invited to witness a sounding rocket launch in Thumba.

Thenmala Divisional Forest Officer Anil Antony formally inaugurated the event in the presence of IIST Registrar Y.V.N. Krishna Murthy, Villumala tribal chieftain Thankapan Kani and Villumala Vana Samrakshna Samithi (forest protection committee) president Sasidharan Kani.

State govt. issues order for implementing Registered Vehicle Scrappage Policy

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

The State government has issued an order for implementation of the Registered Vehicle Scrappage Policy of Karnataka -2022, envisaged to phase out old vehicles registered in Karnataka. The order was issued on December 30.

The policy states that out of the 1.2 crore vehicles estimated to be without valid registration certificates (RC) and fitness certificate (FC) across the country, approximately 14.3 lakh are estimated as fit for scrapping in the State. Over the course of the next five years, an additional 66 lakh registered vehicles in the State will cross the age of 15 and a substantial number of these end-of-life vehicles will be from the commercial category.

The primary objectives are reducing pollution by scrapping old and unfit vehicles, improving passenger safety, boosting auto sector, generating employment, promoting recycling of vehicle scrap in a scientific manner and formalising the current informal vehicle scrappage industry in the State. Commissioner for Transport and Road Safety S.N. Siddaramappa told *The Hindu* that through the national single window system or by calling expression of interest, measures would be taken to set up Registered Vehicles Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) in the State, and these would carry out dismantling and scrapping operations. "In Bengaluru, such scrapping facility centres will be at three or four points. There is a proposal to provide RVFS at district level," he added.

The policy says RVSF will issue "certificate of deposit" as evidence of transfer of ownership of the vehicle. The certificate (CoD) will be tradeable and shall be a necessary and sufficient document of the owner to avail himself of incentives and benefits for purchase of a new vehicle as may be declared from time to time.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

Criteria for scrapping vehicles

- Vehicles for which RC is not renewed
- Vehicles for which no FC has been granted
- Vehicles which are 15 years old and above owned by government, public sector undertakings, and other government agencies
- Vehicles which have been damaged due to fire, riot, natural disaster, accidents
- following which the registered owners self-certified them as scrap
- Vehicles bought by an agency, including RVSF, in an auction for scrapping the vehicles
- Auctioned, impounded, or abandoned vehicles by enforcement agency
- Any other vehicle voluntarily offered to RVSF for scrapping by the owner

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Unemployment rate surges in December, highest in Haryana

8.3 In percentage, the rate of unemployment in India in December, the highest in 2022, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The unemployment rate during November was at 8%, while in September it was the lowest at 6.43%, CMIE data stated. The share of unemployment was the highest in Haryana (37.4%). PTI

Cash circulation still going strong six years after demonetisation

83 The percentage rise in circulation of currency, six years after the move to ban 86% of the cash in circulation (demonetisation), according to official data. The value of the currency in circulation stood at ₹32.42 lakh crore as on December 23, 2022, compared to ₹17.74 lakh crore worth of notes in circulation on November 4, 2016, the RBI said. PTI

Coffee exports from India rises as a result of instant coffee

1.66 In percentage, the rise in coffee exports from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter of 4 lakh tonne in 2022 owing to the rise in instant coffee exports, according to the Coffee Board. Exports stood at 3.93 lakh tonne in 2021. In value terms, coffee export was higher at ₹8,762 crore in 2022 as against ₹6,984 crore in 2021. PTI

Coal supply by CIL to the power generation sector increases

11 In percentage, Coal India Ltd's (CIL) coal supply to the power sector in April-December of FY 2022-23. It rose to 432.7 million tonne (MT) from a supply of 390.2 MT in the year-ago period. The supply to the non-power sector last month was 10.5 MT due to increased output. CIL's output in April-December 2022-23 increased to 479 MT from 413.6 MT in the year-ago period. PTI

OYO rooms overflows with bookings for New Year's eve celebration

4.5 In lakh, the number of bookings witnessed by travel firm OYO, on New Year's eve, the highest bookings per hotel per day for India in the last five years, CEO Ritesh Agarwal informed. Ritesh Agarwal added that as tourism is seeing an uptick in 2022, the most visited State in India in 2022 was Uttar Pradesh. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A new coronavirus variant on the block

What is XBB.1.5 – the new subvariant of Omicron? How did it originate? Going ahead, what are the projected outcomes? Will booster doses help India stay ahead of the curve?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

India's first case of the XBB.1.5 subvariant of Omicron was confirmed in Gujarat by the national genome sequencing consortium on December 31. XBB.1.5 has been driving COVID-19 cases in the U.S. Studies of the strain indicate that it is highly transmissible and evades pre-existing immunity. Yet it doesn't seem to cause severe disease. But U.S. scientist Eric Topol wrote that it isn't just superficially scary and we need to pay attention to it. The global prevalence of XBB.1.5 isn't clear yet, although its parent strain has been detected in at least 35 countries. By December 30, XBB.1.5 accounted for 40.5% of all new cases in the U.S., up from 21.7% a week earlier.

How did the variant begin?

XBB.1.5 is a recombinant, which means its genome is the product of the genomes of two different strains spliced together. This can happen when two strains infect a person at the same time; a recombinant variant is produced as they replicate together. Recombinant strains also arise when existing recombinant strains mutate. Previous recombinants include XD (Delta + Omicron), XE (BA.1 + BA.2), and XBB (BA.2.10.1 + BA.2.75). The XBB strain is descended from BA.2.10.1.1 and BA.2.75.3.1.1.1. It mutated further and became XBB.1.5. XBB.1, which also descended from XBB, accounted for 14% of new cases in India around mid-December 2022.

How transmissible is it?

On December 28, immunologist Yunlong Cao reported that XBB.1.5 is as immune-evasive as XBB.1. Both XBB and XBB.1 were more immune-evasive than BA.5.2 (its descendant BF.7 is surging in China) and in fact are the most evasive strains so far. Cao also wrote that a prior breakthrough infection by BF.7 didn't appear to confer significant protection against an XBB.1.5 infection.

Latest test: XBB.1, which also descended from XBB, accounted for 14% of new cases in India around mid-December 2022. SANDEEP SAXENA

Cao also mentioned that XBB.1.5 is better at binding to ACE2 receptors in the body than XBB or XBB.1. So XBB.1.5 is more transmissible. There is already empirical data to show that it spreads faster than BQ.1.1, the subvariant that it displaced in the U.S. as the dominant strain.

Note, however, that XBB.1.5's ACE2 binding affinity is comparable to that of BA.2.75, the Omicron sub-variant detected in India in May 2022. The transmissibility of XBB.1.5 is otherwise still high: it allows the virus to spread more, giving it more opportunities to mutate to more potent forms.

On December 30, CBS News also quoted Dr. Barbara Mahon at the U.S. CDC saying, "There's no suggestion at this point" that XBB.1.5 causes "more severe" disease. Anthony Fauci told CNBC he was taking heart from Singapore's experience with XBB, where it became the dominant strain in October but didn't trigger a hospitalisation surge.

So XBB.1.5 has an ACE2 binding affinity similar to that of BA.2.75, could be more transmissible than XBB and XBB.1, and be as immune-evading as the two. Overall, it has a high growth advantage. And so far, it doesn't appear to be able to cause severe disease. For now, much of what we know about XBB.1.5 is based on what we know about XBB. We need more studies on the former.

What are the implications for India?

Generally speaking, "Variants would have been of some concern if the [virus's] transmission wasn't ongoing; however, as most settings have continuous virus transmission without clinical disease, even reduced efficacy against new variants in the real world has been compensated for by natural infections and booster doses," said Chandrakant Lahariya, a vaccines and health-systems specialist.

Dr. Lahariya also said research on new vaccines should continue but that it shouldn't peg them to newer sub-variants: "by the time such vaccines are made available, a new subvariant might emerge."

He was also wary of the insufficient evidence to administer multiple COVID-19 boosters after the first, which could lead to original antigenic sin: a phenomenon whereby repeated boosting "saturates" the immune system and mitigates its response to future shots.

"The original vaccines continue to be effective with marginal reduction in clinical effectiveness ... against primary endpoints of moderate to severe disease."

THE GIST

- XBB.1.5 is a recombinant, which means its genome is the product of the genomes of two different strains spliced together. In the U.S., it accounted for 40.5% of all new cases by December 30.
- XBB.1.5 could be more transmissible than its immediate ancestors. And so far, it doesn't appear to be able to cause severe disease.
- Experts say that with the hybrid immunity in India, no sublineage is likely to cause a fresh wave

What is the new delimitation exercise by Assam?

The ECI's decision to merely reorient Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies without increasing their numbers was opposed by some political leaders and supported by the government

Rahul Karmakar

The story so far:

Assam remerged four districts with the ones they were carved out of four days after the Election Commission of India (ECI) notified the initiation of the delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the State on December 27, 2022. Many welcomed the ECI decision but questioned the use of the 2001 Census figures for the readjustment of the constituencies and an alleged bid to make Muslims less politically relevant.

What is delimitation?

Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies based on a recent census to ensure each seat has an almost equal number of voters. It is ideally carried out every few years after a Census by an independent Delimitation Commission formed under the provisions of the Delimitation Commission Act.

Why was it put on hold in Assam?

Delimitation panels were set up thrice (1952, 1962 and 1972) regularly before the exercise was suspended in 1976 in view of the family planning programmes in the States. The last Commission was set up in 2002 but before its exercise was completed in 2008, the delimitation of four north-eastern States was deferred due to "security risks" through separate presidential orders. Apart from law-and-order, various organisations in Assam, including the BJP, were opposed to delimitation in 2008 as they wanted it to be done only after the updating of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to weed out "illegal immigrants".

What do the parties have to say?

The Central government reconstituted the Delimitation Commission for the four north-eastern States and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on March 6, 2020. The exercise was imminent but Section 8A of the Representation of People Act, 1950, cited by the ECI for initiating delimitation and the use of the 2001 Census data have raised hackles. Section 8A only allows reorientation and rules out any change in the total number of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies. "What's the point if Assembly seats are not increased?" asked Raijor Dal MLA Akhil Gogoi. Airing a similar view, Congress leader Debabrata Saikia said basing the delimitation on the 2001 Census would be unjust, specifically after the ECI used the 2011 Census for completing the exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, where the number of constituencies increased. All India United Democratic Front MLA Aminul Islam sniffed a political agenda behind using the 2001 Census as the 2021 Census could reveal a few reserved Assembly seats now have Muslims in a majority, necessitating their de-reservation. Assam has 16 Assembly seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes and eight for the Scheduled Castes.

What is the government's take?

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said delimitation can provide the safeguards that the NRC and the Assam Accord of 1985 envisaged to but failed. He said this in the context of a "demographic invasion" that the BJP and its regional allies think would eventually see Assam being taken over by Bengali-speaking or Bengal-origin Muslims. The BJP and some NGOs believe the NRC draft list included too many "non-citizens" by leaving out "only" 19.06 lakh out of 3.3 crore applicants. The Chief Minister also asserted that political leaders not worry about losing out if more seats are 'reserved for SCs and STs after the delimitation', indicating at a rearrangement of seats from where Muslims have been a deciding factor. Three of the districts - Bajali, Biswanath and Hojai - merged with their parent districts have a sizeable Muslim population.

THE GIST

- Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies based on a recent census to ensure each seat has an almost equal number of voters.
- While delimitation exercise was undertaken across the country between 2002 and 2008, it was not carried out in Assam and four other States after 1976 by citing various reasons.
- Despite constituting a Delimitation Commission in 2020, the ECI's decision to use the 2001 Census data and citing of Section 8A of the Representation of People Act, 1950 have raised hackles.

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J BG-BGE

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JAN. 03	
RISE	06:42 SET 18:05
RISE	15:12 SET 03:30
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 04	
RISE	06:43 SET 18:06
RISE	15:58 SET 04:22
THURSDAY, JAN. 05	
RISE	06:43 SET 18:07
RISE	16:47 SET 05:16

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	21
Mysuru	31	13
Bengaluru	28	16

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Petition in HC against tender to procure 840 buses that are not disabled friendly

It has been pointed out in the PIL plea that the tender invited by BMTC says the height of the bus chassis has to be 1,000 mm, which is contrary to the technical requirement to keep the height between 400 mm and 650 mm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issue of notice to the State government and the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), on a PIL petition questioning a recent tender to procure 840 buses without complying with the technical norms to make the vehicles disabled friendly.

The BMTC has decided to procure 840 new buses and to phase out around 989 old buses. FILE PHOTO

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi, passed the order on the petition filed by Sunil Kumar Jain, a 48-year-old person with disability and a practising chartered accountant.

It has been pointed out in the petition that the tender invited by the BMTC prescribes that the height of the bus chassis has to be 1,000 mm, which is contrary to the technical requirement to keep the height between 400 mm and 650 mm, as per norms to make the buses disabled friendly.

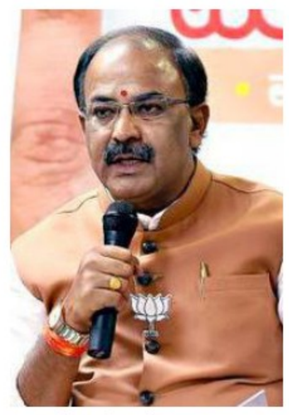
Also, the petitioner has complained that the tender does not prescribe a requirement to provide a wheelchair boarding device at one of the doorways.

The petitioner has contended that despite amendment of laws, including the Motor Vehicles Rules, and a deadline set by the Supreme Court to make public transport buses disabled friendly in phases, the BMTC is procuring many buses that are not so. The procurement of new buses sans accessibility to disabled persons would run contrary to the mandate of the Rights of the Persons with Disability Act, 2016, the petitioner said.

The BMTC has decided to procure 840 new buses and to phase out around 989 old buses, the petitioner has pointed out with the tender document and newspaper reports.

Industrialist's death: FIR filed against Limbavali, others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


Arvind Limbavali

The Kaggalipura police have registered a case of abetment to suicide against Arvind Limbavali, BJP leader and MLA, and five others based on a note by an industrialist Pradeep S. who was found dead. In the note, the industrialist had held Mr. Limbavali responsible for his action.

Considering the importance, the case has been referred to an officer of the rank of DySP to probe in detail.

To begin with, the police have started gathering the financial details of the deceased and sought transaction details from the bank, where Mr. Pradeep had reportedly transferred money to the accused.

Based on details of the transactions, the police will summon the accused for questioning for further course of action, a police officer said .

Meanwhile, talking to reporters in Bengaluru, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said: "The FIR has been filed and the law will take its own course".

Citizens want pothole-free roads and rain-ready infrastructure

WISH LIST 2023

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

With the city reeling under rain-related misery making headlines multiple times last year, citizens are hoping that with the dawn of a new year, they will have the very basics in terms of infrastructure: smoother roads, a rain-ready city, and better solid waste management, among others.

Downpour in the last week of August and the first week of September last year brought Bengaluru, especially the IT corridor and the adjoining areas from East Bengaluru along the ORR to South-East Bengaluru, to a standstill. FILE PHOTO

Downpour in the last week of August and the first week of September last year brought Bengaluru, especially the IT corridor and the adjoining areas from East Bengaluru along the ORR to South-East Bengaluru, to a standstill. It's been a year since, but the city's infrastructure has not improved much.

After this, the BBMP started to act against illegal encroachments of stormwater drains (SWDs) and lakes by using bulldozers. For a few days, the drive did happen, but stopped reportedly on the pretext of resurveys and stay orders brought by the building owners.

Now, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has directed officials to take up anti-encroachment drives and remove all encroachment of SWDs and lakes. The Revenue Department has identified illegal encroachments to be removed by the BBMP. To clear the encroachments of SWDs, the Chief Minister allocated ₹300 crore and also allocated ₹1,500 crore for clearing out the stagnant water.

For decades, the BBMP has been in the process of remodelling the SWD network. According to BBMP data, nearly 428 km of the city's 842-km network of SWDs have been remodelled.

"The BBMP has to have comprehensive plans on encroachments of SWDs and lakes and should have long and short-term plans to solve flood issues. Giving more importance to rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge will also help to overcome flooding-related incidents," said Srinivas Alavilli, head, civic participation, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.

Roads

After trying white-topping roads, this year the BBMP, on a pilot basis, constructed 'rapid roads' by using pre-cast technology on Old Madras Road (OMR) in the city, which may be finalised after evaluation by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.). In the 'rapid road' method, pre-cast slabs are prepared, joined, strengthened, and then laid. As an experiment, a 375-metre stretch has been laid on the busy OMR.

Civic officials said that while white-topping roads takes around 30 days, this pilot road work will only take two to three days.

Experts feel that the rapid road, which is widely used in developed countries, can be considered in Bengaluru as the work will be completed in three days. However, they acknowledged that delays would happen during the curing work.

Traffic expert M.N. Srihari said: "Rapid road is better when compared with white-topping since the work will be completed fast. However, curing will take some more time. The BBMP has to somehow manage that. The BBMP should also come up with various measures to solve the pothole issues. It's not difficult to fix potholes, with efficiency everything can be solved."

BBMP budget

Citizens are also expecting more programmes in the coming Budget next year. The civic body, in association with Janaagraha, had launched the 'MyCityMyBudget' programme to collect citizens' inputs and suggestions. This year, the 'MyCityMyBudget' programme is focused on collecting inputs from citizens with a special focus on parks, footpaths, and public toilets.

Meanwhile, the Bengaluru Ward Samiti Balaga has prioritised roads, footpaths, street lights, and solid waste management (SWM) in the upcoming city Budget

Civic activists also say that the BBMP should be more decentralised and transparent in the ward-level Budget allocation in the ward committee meetings.

Pious followers

Devotees offer prayers to Lord Venkateshwara on the occasion of 'Vaikunta Ekadashi', at Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Temple in Rajarajeshwarinagar on Monday.K. MURALI KUMAR

Total of 519 Indian, foreign exhibitors sign up for Aero India 2023

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Of the 519 exhibitors, 486 are Indian, while 33 are from 21 foreign countries

With about a month-and-a-half left for the Aero India 2023, a number of exhibitors, both Indian and foreign, have registered for the biennial airshow.

A total of 519 exhibitors have so far registered for the five-day air show to be held at Air Force Station Yelahanka between February 13 and 17.

Of the 519 exhibitors, 486 are Indian exhibitors, while 33 are from 21 foreign countries.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the event will combine a major trade exhibition of the Aerospace and Defence industries as well as aerial display by IAF and others.

"Besides global leaders and big investors in the Aerospace industry, the show will also see participation by think tanks from across the world. Aero India will provide a unique opportunity for exchange of information, ideas, and new developments in the aviation industry. In addition to giving a fillip to the domestic aviation industry, it would further the cause of Make in India," the Ministry said recently.

The 2023 edition of Aero India will return to its old avatar.

The air show which is traditionally held for over five days was reduced to a three-day event during the last edition in 2021 with the last two days (public viewing days) being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Besides, the previous show was also unique as it was the world's first hybrid exhibition wherein the business elements of the event were held in both physical as well as virtual modes.

Delegates from over 55 countries and more than 540 exhibitors had participated in Aero India 2021.

The event also saw the signing of over 201 new business partnerships through MoUs, agreements and collaborations were inked and the show was attended by 16,000 delegates.

'Phase 2 of metro will be completed before 2024'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said that the Phase 2 of Namma Metro will be completed before 2024.

Speaking after launching the booth vijaya abhiyan of the BJP at Shivajinagar here, he said that while Phase 2 of Namma Metro will be completed before 2024, the work on the ₹26,000-crore Phase 3 works will be launched soon after approval is received from the Centre.

He also said that the tender process for the Peripheral Ring Road would be completed soon and the work on Cauvery 5th Stage will be completed.

Listing out the BJP's development works for Bengaluru city, he said that the foundation stone has been laid for the ₹15,000 crore suburban railway by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

To ensure overall development of the city, ₹8,000 crore has been provided under the Nagarothana scheme.

"The Congress had kept Shivajinagar as a slum. Our government has ensured that the area is developed. The booth committees should highlight these."

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (January 3, Wednesday), the following explainer is available:

- A new coronavirus variant on the block
bit.ly/coronavirusvariant

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (JIPMER)
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Notice is hereby given to the Public that Original **1)** Sale Deed dated 02.12.1995 registered as document No.5867/1995-96 Book-I in the office of the Sub-Registrar Anekal Bangalore, in respect of Site No.56 **2)** Sale Deed dated 07.09.2000 registered as document No.2735/2000-01 of Book-I in the office of the Sub- Registrar Anekal Bangalore, and **3)** Sale Deed dated 04.03.2004 registered as document No.15168/2003-04 of Book-I in the office of the Sub-Registrar Anekal Bangalore, in respect of Site No.55 & 56, Khaneshumari No. 1315, measuring 2033 Sq.ft. Situated at **Attibele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore,** Sl.No.1 & 2 Original documents & Sl.No.3 Page No.5 & 6 Original Sheets has been lost. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale Deeds. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present.
Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Water Resources Department)
Irrigation Projects, CADA Division, Kalabuagi
Address : Plot No.21, Kotanur Dhariapura Road, G. D. A. Layout, 3rd Main Road, "B" Block, Kalaburagi-585102) e-mail: eecadaipglb@gmail.com
No.EE/CADA/Kal-Div/PB-1/2022-23/ Date: 02-01-2023
Tender Notification (through e-procurement portal only) (Two Cover System)
On behalf of The Administrator, Irrigation Projects Zone, CADA, Kalaburagi, The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Projects,CADA. Division Kalaburagi has invited tenders for civil work from qualified contractors, the details of which are as follows.
1) Details of work : Causeway, approach road work under Karanja Irrigation Project. 2) Head of Account : 4705 SDP. 3) Amount put to tender : Rs. 63,48,320.43 + GST, 4) Eligibility of Contractor : KPWD Class-1 and aove. 5) Time limit for access to e-procurement portal : From 03.01.2023 To 10.01.2023 upto 5.00 PM. 6) Cost of Tender Application and E.M.D. amount : As per e-procurement portal. 7) The last date & time for receipt of tenders : 10.01.2023 5.00 PM. 8) Date & Time for opening of Technical bid: 12.01.2023 at 11.00 AM 8) Date & Time for opening of Financial bid : 19.01.2023 at 11.00 AM. 9) For tender queries and clarification : Executive Engineer, Irrigation Projects, CADA Division, Kalaburagi. 10) Website : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1050/MC&A/2022-23 **Irrigation Projects, CADA Division, Kalaburagi**

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Weighing out the gains and losses of demonetisation

The decision to demonetise will cause grievous injury to the honest Indian who earns wages in cash. The dishonest black money hoarder will get away with a mere rap on the knuckles

Manmohan Singh

Four judges on a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on January 2 found no flaw in the government's decision to demonetise ₹500 and ₹ 1000 currency notes through a gazette notification on November 8, 2016.

The sole woman judge, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, on the Bench however disagreed with the majority, saying the demonetisation exercise, undertaken on the government's initiative and based on a mere notification in the official gazette instead of a plenary legislation in the Parliament, was plainly unlawful and vitiated. Manmohan Singh writes about the havoc it wreaked on the lives of the common man.

It is said that "money is an idea that inspires confidence". At the stroke of the midnight hour, on November 9, 2016, the confidence of more than a billion Indians was destroyed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that more than 85 per cent of the value of money held in notes of Rs.500 and Rs.1,000 was worthless overnight . In one impetuous decision, the Prime Minister has shattered the faith and confidence that hundreds of millions of Indians had reposed in the Government of India to protect them and their money.

The Prime Minister in his address to the nation said, "there comes a time in the history of a country's development when a need is felt for a strong and decisive step," and propounded two primary reasons for this decision. One was to check "enemies from across the border... using fake currency notes". The other was to "break the grip of corruption and black money".

Both these intentions are honourable and deserve to be supported whole-heartedly. Counterfeit currency and black money are as grave a threat to the idea of India as terrorism and social division. They deserve to be extinguished using all the firepower at our disposal. However, the popular saying "the road to hell is paved with good intentions" serves as a useful reminder and warning in this context.

The underlying premise behind the decision of the Prime Minister to render Rs.500 and Rs.1,000 currencies as illegal overnight seems to be this false notion that 'all cash is black money and all black money is in cash'. This is far from reality. Let us understand why.

Sudden shock: More than 90% of India's workforce still earn their wages in cash. Cash is the bedrock of the lives of these people. PTI

Life thrown into disarray

More than 90 per cent of India's workforce still earn their wages in cash. These consist of hundreds of millions of agriculture workers, construction workers and so on. While the number of bank branches in rural areas have nearly doubled since 2001, there are still more than 600 million Indians who live in a town or village with no bank. Cash is the bedrock of the lives of these people. Their daily subsistence depends on their cash being accepted as a medium of valid currency. They save their money in cash which, as it grows, is stored in denominations of Rs.500 and Rs.1,000 notes. To tarnish these as 'black money' and throw the lives of these hundreds of millions of poor people in disarray is a mammoth tragedy. The vast majority of Indians earn in cash, transact in cash and save in cash, all legitimately. It is the fundamental duty of a democratically elected government in any sovereign nation to protect the rights and livelihood of its citizens. The recent decision by the Prime Minister is a travesty of this fundamental duty.

Black money in India is a genuine concern. This is wealth that has been accumulated over years by those with unaccounted sources of income. Unlike the poor, holders of black money have access to various forms of wealth such as land, gold, foreign exchange, etc. There have been various attempts by many governments in the past decades to recover this illicit wealth through actions by the Income Tax department, the Enforcement Directorate and schemes such as Voluntary Disclosure. These measures were targeted strikes at only those suspected to be holders of such unaccounted wealth, not on all citizens. Evidence from these past attempts has shown that a large majority of this unaccounted wealth is not stored in the form of cash. All black money is not in cash, only a tiny fraction is. Against this backdrop, the decision by the Prime Minister is bound to have obverse implications by causing grievous injury to the honest Indian who earns his/her wages in cash and a mere rap on the knuckles to the dishonest black money hoarder. To make it worse, the government has actually made it easier to generate such unaccounted wealth in the future by the introduction of a Rs.2,000 note. This brazen policy measure has neither tackled the stock of black money holistically nor has it stemmed the flow of it.

It is no surprise that the logistical challenge of replacing billions of old currency notes with new ones is a monumental one. It is a huge challenge in most nations, and in a country as vast and diverse as India it was bound to be doubly so. This is also one reason why most nations that have undertaken such currency swap operations have done so over a certain time period and not as a sudden overnight operation. It is heartbreaking to see and hear of millions of poor Indians standing in long lines to withdraw some money for basic sustenance. As someone who has experienced long lines for rationed food during war time, I never imagined that one day I would find my own countrymen and women waiting endlessly for rationed money. That all of this suffering is due to one hasty decision makes it even more disconcerting.

The macroeconomic impact of this decision of the government is likely to be hazardous. At a time when India's trade numbers are at multi-year lows, industrial production is shrinking and job creation is anaemic, this policy can act as a negative shock to the economy. It is indeed true that India's cash to GDP ratio is very high vis-à-vis other nations. But this is also an indicator of the Indian economy's dependence on cash. Consumer confidence is an important economic variable in a nation's growth prospects. It is now evident that this sudden overnight ban on currency has dented the confidence of hundreds of millions of Indian consumers, which can have severe economic ramifications. The scars of an overnight depletion of the honest wealth of a vast majority of Indians combined with their ordeal of rationed access to new currency will be too deep to heal quickly. This can have ripple effects on GDP growth and job creation. It is my humble opinion that we as a nation should brace ourselves for a tough period over the coming months, needlessly so.

Unintended consequences

Black money is a menace to our society that we need to eliminate. In doing so, we have to be mindful of the potential impact on hundreds of millions of other honest citizens. It may be tempting and self-fulfilling to believe that one has all the solutions and previous governments were merely lackadaisical in their attempts to curb black money. It is not so. Leaders and governments have to care for their weak and at no point can they abdicate this responsibility. Most policy decisions carry risks of unintended consequences. It is important to deftly balance these risks with the potential benefits of such decisions. Waging a war on black money may sound enticing. But it cannot entail even a single loss of life of an honest Indian.

Dr. Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014.

KEYWORD

The subjective theory of value

Prashanth Perumal J.

Subjective theory of value refers to a certain theory of value which states that the prices of goods and services in a market economy are determined by the subjective preferences of consumers. This theory of value was the outcome of the marginalist revolution of the latter half of the 19th century when three economists—Carl Menger from Austria, William Stanley Jevons from England, and Leon Walras from France—independently came up with the idea that economic value is subjective in nature.

The subjective theory of value overturned other competing theories of value such as the Marxian labour theory of value that were based on cost and other intrinsic factors. The cost theory of value argued that the market price of goods and services was determined by the cost of the various inputs that went into its production. Cost theorists believed that the greater the cost of inputs that go into manufacturing a product, the higher the price at which the product is sold to the consumer. Subjective value theorists, however, have been able to explain market prices better than cost value theorists. Many high-priced goods in the market have a very low cost of production while many other goods in fact sell at prices that are far below their cost of production. In such cases, the subjective theory of value explains market prices far better than other theories of value.

English economist Alfred Marshall argued that market prices are determined by both the cost of production and the subjective preferences of consumers. Marshall believed that while demand for a product was determined by consumer preference, the supply of the same product was determined by the cost of production. In other words, the cost of production of a product was considered to be independent of consumer demand. Marshall's idea of value is in line with the mainstream view today that supply and demand together determine the price of goods and services.

Pure subjective value theorists, however, have argued that the subjective preferences of consumers alone independently determine the market prices of goods and services. In other words, according to subjective value theorists, the cost of producing a product plays no role whatsoever in determining the price of the product in the marketplace. In fact, they argue that the cost of production itself is indirectly determined by the subjective preferences of consumers. This is because the cost of producing any good or service is determined by the alternative uses to which the resources used to produce the good or service can be allocated. For example, if the resources required to produce a certain consumer good are also in high demand in the manufacture of other consumer goods, this will naturally lead to a rise in the cost of producing the consumer good. In essence, cost only determines the different ends to which scarce resources are allocated and it plays no role in determining the market price of products as such.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the Brazilian football legend Pele

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

V. V. Ramanan

Pele, arguably the greatest footballer, passed away recently. A quiz on the Brazilian sporting icon.

QUESTION 1
After which American genius was Pele named and what was his full name?

QUESTION 2
Pele is the only player to win the World Cup thrice. In which years?

QUESTION 3
Until 1974, Pele played professionally for only one team that was nicknamed 'The Fish'. Name this famous Brazilian club.

QUESTION 4
Pele showcased his skills in India in 1977 by playing against Mohun Bagan. Which American club did he represent?

QUESTION 5
Pele was also known as 'Perola Negra' (Black Pearl). In which Hindi comedy classic does this nickname figure as a question that Utpal Dutt is asking Amol Palekar?

QUESTION 6
Why is 19th November 1969 an important date in Pele's career?

QUESTION 7
About which modern-day legend did Pele once remark "only shoots with one leg, only has one skill, and doesn't head the ball well"?

Name this feature film starring Pele that also had fellow World Cup winners Bobby Moore and Osvaldo Ardilles. THE HINDU

Answers to the previous day's quiz:
1. Three countries that got women MPs in 2022. **Ans: Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Kuwait**
2. The first openly queer woman of colour to win an Oscar in the acting category. **Ans: Ariana DeBose, West Side Story**
3. "I wonder whether or not anyone asked Barack Obama and John Key if they meet because they are of similar age…" Who said? **Ans: Jacinda Ardern**
4. Emma Tucker was named the editor-in-chief of which newspaper. **Ans: The Wall Street Journal**
5. Protests broke out in Iran after the death of a young woman. Prior to this, another country witnessed protests. Name the country and the specific State. **Ans: India, Karnataka**
6. Before becoming President, Droupadi Murmu was a Minister of which State? **Ans: Odisha**

Visual: This Indian team won gold for which sport at the Commonwealth Games 2022? Which team did they beat? **Ans: Lawn bowling, South Africa**

Early Birds
K.N. Viswanathan - Ashujeet Yadav - S. Jagadish

Word of the day

Efface:
remove completely from recognition or memory

Synonyms: obliterate, blur, slur, dim

Usage:
He effaced the memory of the time spent in the camps.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/effacepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪ'feɪs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

Govt. issues order on vehicle scrappage policy

Prior to scrapping, owner of the vehicle has to give an undertaking on criminal record, litigation, and pending dues. The RVSF should maintain the safe custody of cut pieces of chassis number for six months from the date of vehicle scrapping issue of certificate vehicles scrapping and a physical copy of all documents for two years and scanned copies for 10 years for record and examination during inspection.

Tax concessions

The State government has decided that tax concessions given for newly registered vehicles against the submission of CoD shall be equivalent to 25% of tax paid on the scrapped vehicles (non-transport vehicles). The policy further states that concession in Motor Vehicles Tax for two-wheelers registered before 1986 is ₹500. For light motor vehicles registered before 1995 it is ₹3,000. If the tax paid details are not found, the Transport Commissioner may issue circulars to determine the tax concessions whenever required. For transport vehicles, tax concession to be given for newly registered vehicles against submission of CoD shall be equivalent to 15% of tax paid for a period of eight years from the date of registration of scrapping vehicles. An official of the Transport Department added, "Owners of the old vehicles can voluntarily visit scraping facility centres to scrap their vehicles. There is no need to visit RTOs. It is mandatory to scrap government owned vehicles that are over 15 years. Authorities concerned such as transport department and police can also scrap abandoned vehicles through calling tenders."

Siddeshwar Swami passes away

The main theme of the discourses remained the Kayaka-Dasoha ideology preached by Sri Basaveshwara and other Sharanas.

PM condoles

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several leaders have condoled the death of Siddeshwar Swami.

"Paramapujya Sri Siddheshwara Swami Ji will be remembered for his outstanding service to society. He worked tirelessly for the betterment of others and was also respected for his scholarly zeal. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with his countless devotees. Om Shanti," the Prime Minister tweeted along with his pictures with the seer.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai too expressed grief over the seer's death. "I am pained to know the swamiji has died. The swamiji had rendered invaluable service to humankind by striving for its upliftment through his discourses. His death is an unbearable loss to the State," the Chief Minister said in a condolence message.

Seer of Adichunchanagiri Mutt Nirmalanandanatha Swami, Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah, former Chief Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy, KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar and several Ministers were among those who condoled the death of Siddeshwar Swami.

Tenders will be called within a month for Kalasa-Banduri project execution: Karjol

The government will use 2.18 tmcft of water from Banduri and 1.72 tmcft from Kalasa river canals for drinking water needs of drought-hit NK districts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file picture of the work on the Mahadayi river diversion project site in Belagavi district.

The State government on Monday said tenders for execution of the work on the Kalasa-Banduri (Mahadayi) project, a drinking water project, will be invited in a month and thereafter the work will commence immediately.

The State wanted to use Mahadayi river water from its tributaries Kalasa and Banduri for catering to the drinking water needs of the drought-hit districts of North Karnataka. The government will use 3.9 tmcft of water - 2.18 tmcft from Banduri and 1.72 tmcft from Kalasa river canals - for drinking purposes, according to Water Resources Minister Govind M. Karjol.

He said the project work would be completed in a year. The proposed cost of the project is ₹1,760 crore. There was no necessity of seeking any clearances from the Centre for implementing the project, he said.

Giving credit to the BJP governments at the Centre and State for pushing the project, the Minister said the erstwhile UPA government at the Centre and the Congress-led Siddaramaiah government were asleep on the project for many years.

"Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi had declared in Goa during the Assembly elections in that State in 2012 that even a drop of water from Mahadayi would not be given to Karnataka. What moral right do the Congress leaders have to hold a rally seeking implementation of the project", Mr. Karjol asked.

The project was conceptualised in 1989 by the S.R. Bommai government and later farmers of the region went on a strike for 1,080 days seeking implementation of the project, the Minister said. A Tribunal was formed in 2010 and its verdict came out in 2018, he noted.

The implementation of the Kalasa-Banduri project was a major poll promise the BJP had made during the 2018 Assembly election.

On objections raised by Goa, Mr. Karjol said the neighbouring State has to respect the Tribunal verdict in the federal system of administration. "How correct is it to question the Tribunal's verdict," he asked the Goan government.

Mahadayi issue: Congress calls BJP leaders a bunch of liars

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala, H.K. Patil, Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar, K.H. Muniayppa, and others beating the traditional drum to inaugurate the Mahadayi convention in Hubballi on Monday. KIRAN BAKALE

Addressing a large crowd mainly comprising farmers from the Mahadayi command area, at the 'Mahadayi Jala Jana Andolana' in Hubballi on Monday, the Opposition Congress leaders, including AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, termed the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders as a "bunch of liars" and alleged that ahead of the Assembly elections they had come out with lies with regard to Mahadayi as was done during the previous election.

Former Minister H.K. Patil, during whose tenure as Water Resources Minister, the Kalasa-Banduri Nala project was envisaged and various clearances were secured, set the tone for the Mahadayi convention by explaining how the then Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee-led BJP government kept the "in principle approval in abeyance" for the project. He called upon the BJP leaders to stop telling lies and apologise to the people for the same.

Senior Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad said that the DPR clearance was a fake document like the fake certificates of PM Modi's educational qualification.

Mr. Surjewala said that the history of the BJP itself was based on lies and they had cheated the people of North Karnataka. He said it was the Congress that conceived the project and BJP created hurdles for it. "They (BJP) are deceitful people who indulge in fake celebration over projects. But Congress does what it says. On coming to power, in the first Cabinet meeting we will earmark ₹3,000 crore for the project," he announced.

Taking forward what Mr. Surjewala said, Mr. Shivakumar said the very fact that a large number of people had gathered for the Mahadayi convention proved that people did not believe in the lies of the BJP. "It is because people know that Congress leaders don't tell lies like Pralhad Joshi and Basavaraj Bommai. It is the end for the BJP," he said giving a call to all to uproot the BJP government. As he chanted 'Namma Neeru' (our water), the crowd responded with a thunderous 'Namma Hakku (our right) slogan.

Mr. Sidaramaiah further intensified the attack on the BJP, mocking their leaders and calling Mr. Bommai 'a puppet' and 'weakest Chief Minister in the State's history'.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the gazette notification on the MWDT award was issued by the BJP led Union government in 2020 only after the State filed an Interlocutory Application. And from then what the BJP leaders were doing with regard to the clearances and now the elections were approaching and Congress raised the issue, they were coming out with lies about clearances, he said adding that Just before the last Assembly election, Mr. Yediyurappa had come with a fake letter and now Mr. Joshi had come up with another.

Make the word 'ex-servicemen' gender neutral: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday said that there is an imperative need for the Union and State governments to change the nomenclature 'ex-servicemen' to 'ex-service personnel' to make it gender neutral in tune with ever evolving, dynamic tenets of the fundamental right to equality before law guaranteed under the Constitution.

"The word 'men' in the nomenclature portrays such discrimination as it seeks to demonstrate that the forces are still a bastion of the male, while it is not... Women have reached combatant services in supervisory roles as officers and on other responsibilities, be it in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force," the court observed.

Pointing out that women nowadays have a role to play in the forces, be it the Army, the Navy or the Air force, the court said that "the word 'men' in the nomenclature ex-servicemen, would seek to demonstrate a misogynous posture of an age-old masculine culture."

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while allowing a petition filed by Priyanka R. Patil, daughter of a martyred ex-serviceman. She had questioned rejection of grant of identity card to her as a dependent of ex-servicemen by the State's Department of Sainik Welfare and Resettlement. "There has to be a change in the mindset of the rule making authority or the policy makers, it is only then there could be recognition of commitment of the values of the Constitution, as equality should not remain a mere idle incantation, but has to be a vibrant living reality," the court observed.

Meanwhile, the court declared the department's 'guidelines for issuance of ID cards to dependents of ex-servicemen' as discriminatory as the guidelines make daughters of ex-servicemen ineligible for grant of ID card if they are married even though they are under 25 years of age.

"If the son remains a son, married or unmarried; a daughter shall remain a daughter, married or unmarried. If the act of marriage does not change the status of the son; the act of marriage cannot and shall not change the status of a daughter," it said.

Petitioner's father, Subedar Ramesh Kandappa Police Patil was 'killed in action' in 2001 while serving in the Army. The petitioner-daughter had sought I-card to seek reservation under 'ex-servicemen' quota for applying for the posts Assistant Professors in the Government First Grade colleges.

Chief Minister launches 'Booth Vijaya Abhiyan'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the Congress of looking for profits always, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said it indulges in politics for power and currently it is only bothered about its survival but not people's problem. "The legislator here claims he brought Smart City project. It is a Centrally funded project. Smart City is a BJP project and Congress has not released a paise when it was in power. The Congress always looks at profit and it is now a sinking ship. While we indulge in politics for people, Congress does it for power," he said here after launching the 'Booth Vijaya Abhiyan' here at Shivajinagar.

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BBMP increases COVID-19 tests to 6,000 from 1,500 to meet Health Department target

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has increased COVID-19 tests to meet the State Health Department's target of 5,000 daily tests.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Monday said that the BBMP, in the last two days, has been conducting 6,000 tests since the government had given a target of conducting at least 5,000 tests per day.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Nath said: "There are not many cases, but still we are doing more tests. If the cases increase, we will increase the testing."

Recently, the State Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended increasing Bengaluru's test targets to 5,000. The BBMP has also deployed one swab collector in each primary health centre in the city for testing.

Earlier tests

Earlier, the palike was conducting 1,500 tests per day. In October, when some States reported newer subvariants of Omicron, such as BQ.1 and BA.2.3.20, apart from XBB, the TAC had advised that the daily tests in Bengaluru, which has always been the epicentre of COVID-19 in the State, should be increased to at least 10,000.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

NOTIFICATION

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION,
No.16, C-1, MILLERS TANK BED AREA, VASANTHANAGAR, BENGALURU– 560 052

No. BESCOM/D(F)/DGM(RA)/BC-19/F-1001/ **Dated: 03.01.2023**

IN THE MATTER OF:

An Application for approval of Truing up of FY-22, Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) & Expected Revenue from Charges (ERC) for Wire and Supply Business for FY-24 and Retail Supply Tariff for FY-24 of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), Bengaluru-01 under Section 27 of the Karnataka Electricity Reform Act, 1999 and under Section 61 & 62 of Electricity Act, 2003, read with relevant KERC (Tariff) Regulations including KERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff for Distribution and Retail sale of electricity) Regulations 2006 and MYT Order No. D/01/6, Dated 31.05.2006.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM),
K R Circle, Bengaluru-560 001 ..... PETITIONER

N O T I C E

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), has filed a Petition before the Hon'ble Commission for Truing up of FY-22, Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) & Expected Revenue from Charges (ERC) for Wire and Supply Business for FY-24 and Retail Supply Tariff for FY-24 under Section 27 of the Karnataka Electricity Reform Act, 1999 and under Section 61 & 62 of Electricity Act, 2003, read with relevant KERC (Tariff) Regulations including KERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff for Distribution and Retail sale of electricity) Regulations 2006 and MYT Order No. D/01/6, Dated 31.05.2006. The details of ERC filing are as under

1. NEED FOR REVISION:

A revenue deficit arises due to mismatch between Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) and Revenue Receipts from existing tariff of BESCOM as detailed below:

Rs. in Crore

Year	Revenue Receipts	Revenue Requirement	Revenue Deficit
2021-22*	21605.90	22069.83	463.93
2023-24**	26180.62	30614.09	4433.47

* Proposed for True up
** Modified estimate with FY-22 deficit carried forward

Based on the above ARR, the estimated Average Cost of Supply of power is more than the Average Rate of Realization as detailed below:

Amount in Rs.

Year	Average Cost of Supply	Average Rate of Realization	Deficit
2023-24	10.11	8.65	1.46

Hence, the revision in tariff is required. BESCOM plans to recover Rs. 4433.47 Crs. in FY-24 from the proposed revision of Tariff.

2. PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASE: Estimated deficit/profit of FY-23 will be considered at the time of Truing up of FY-23. The deficit up to FY-22 and estimated deficit for FY-24 of Rs. 4433.47 Crs is proposed to be recovered by Tariff increase. The tariffs applicable to various categories of consumers are as shown in Annexure-1.
3. Ready Reckoner showing the monthly bill as per existing tariff and bill as per the proposed tariff for different categories of consumers is shown as Annexure-2. Application filed before Commission is also available at all O&M Circle Offices (Offices of the Superintending Engineers, (Ele), C, O&M, Bangalore (North), Bangalore (South), Bangalore (East), Bangalore (West), Bangalore (Rural), Tumkur, Kolar, Davanagere and Ramanagara) and BESCOM, Corporate Office, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru – 560 001.
4. Pursuant to Regulation-5 of KERC (Tariff) Regulations 2000, it is hereby notified that the persons who are interested in filing their objections to the above petition may file the same with the Receiving Officer, O/o the Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, No.16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasantha Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052, along with the documents on which they want to rely upon, in six sets, duly supported by an affidavit within thirty days from the date of first publication of this Tariff Notification and also indicate whether they want to be heard in person. A copy of the objection may be marked to Director (Finance), Second Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate office, BESCOM, K.R.Circle, Bangalore-560 001 for furnishing replies to the objections.
5. For reference of those who are interested, copies of the petition are available for inspection at all Circle Offices (Offices of the Superintending Engineers (Ele) (C, O&M), Bangalore (North), Bangalore (South), Bangalore (East), Bangalore (West), Bangalore (Rural), Tumkur, Kolar, Davanagere and Ramanagara).
6. They may also obtain copies of the required portion of the petition by paying photocopying charges.
7. Further, full set of petition together with supporting material will also be made available to the interested persons by the Superintending Engineer Ele., of C,O&M Circles as in para 5, on payment of Rs. 400/- and the same is also available for sale at BESCOM Corporate Office, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru – 560001.
8. The soft copy of the ERC/Tariff application can be viewed on the website of BESCOM **(https://bescom.karnataka.gov.in/)**.

For Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
Sd/-
Director (Finance)
K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001

Existing Tariff and Proposed Tariff
ANNEXURE-1

FY - 24

Sl. No.	Tariff Category	Type of installation	Existing				Proposed	
			Particulars	Rs			Particulars	Rs
LT								
1	LT 1	Bhagya Jyoti / Kutir Jyothi	Minimum charges per installation	70	LT 1	Bhagya Jyoti /Kutir Jyothi	Minimum charges per installation	70
			8.70 paise per unit subject to a monthly minimum of Rs. 70 per installation per month. **Note: GoK has to pay subsidy in advance to provide free power supply to these categories. In case of non release of the subsidy in advance, CDT of Rs. 8.70 per unit subject to monthly minimum of Rs. 70/- per installation per month shall be demanded and collected from these Consumers.**	8.70			"995 paise per unit subject to a monthly minimum of Rs. 70 per installation per month. Note: GoK has to pay subsidy in advance to provide free power supply to these categories. In case of non release of the subsidy in advance, CDT of Rs. 9.95 per unit subject to monthly minimum of Rs. 70/- per installation per month shall be demanded and collected from these Consumers."	9.95
2	LT 2(a): Domestic Lighting / Combined Lighting, All Electric Homes (AEH) Non-com Light-Heating & motive power Govt. hospital & Hostel for aged & destitute and handicapped	LT-2(a)(i):Applicable to areas coming under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Municipal Corporation and all areas coming under Urban Local Bodies.	**Fixed charges/month**	**Rs**	LT 2(a): Domestic Lighting / Combined Lighting, All Electric Homes (AEH) Non-com Light-Heating & motive power Govt. hospital & Hostel for aged & destitute and handicapped	"Applicable to all areas coming under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Bodies and Village Panchayats.		
			First KW	100			**Fixed charges/month**	Rs
			For every additional KW up to and inclusive of 50 KW	110			First KW	150
			For every additional KW above 50KW	175			For every additional KW up to and inclusive of 50KW	300
			Energy Charges (Rs/units) for units consumed in a month				For every additional KW above 50 KW	460
			For 0-50 units	4.15				
			51 to 100 units	5.60			**Energy Charges (Rs/units) for units consumed in a month**	
			101 to 200 units	7.15			For 0-50 units	3.60
			Above 200 units	8.20			0-100 units	5.40
		LT-2(a)(ii): Applicable to areas under Village Panchayats	**Fixed charges/month**	**Rs**			0 to > 100 units	7.00
			For the first KW	85			A rebate of 25 paise per unit in energy charges is provided for the consumers of village panchayats.	
			For every additional KW upto and inclusive of 50 KW	100				
			For every additional KW above 50KW	160				
			Energy Charges (Rs./u) for units consumed in a month					
			For 0-50 units	4.05				
			51 to 100 units	5.30				
			101 to 200 units	6.85				
			Above 200 units	7.70				
3	LT 2(b) Private Professional educational institutions including aided & unaided, Nursing Homes and Private Hospitals with lighting or combined lighting & heating and motive power	LT-2(b)(i) : Applicable to areas coming under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Municipal Corporation and all areas coming under Urban Local Bodies.	**Fixed charges/month**	**Rs**	LT 2(b) Private Professional educational institutions including aided & unaided, Nursing Homes and Private Hospitals with lighting or combined lighting & heating and motive power	"Applicable in BBMP Areas, Municipal Corporations, all other Urban Local Bodies and Village Panchayats."		
			Rs.120 Per KW subject to a minimum of Rs.150/ installation per Month up to and inclusive of 50KW	120			**Fixed Charges per Month**	**Rs**
			Rs.175 per KW for every additional KW above 50KW	175			Rs.230 per KW subject to a minimum of Rs.260/ installation per Month up to and inclusive of 50KW	230
			PLUS				Rs.310 per KW for every additional KW above 50KW	310
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)				**Energy Charges**	
			0-200 units	7.35			all units	7.50
			Above 200 units	8.60			A rebate of 50 paise per unit in energy charges is provided for the consumers of village panchayats.	
		LT-2(b)(ii): Applicable in areas under village panchayat	**Fixed charges/month**	**Rs**				
			Rs.110 Per KW subject to a minimum of Rs.135 per month up to and inclusive of 50KW	110				
			Rs.165 per KW for every additional KW above 50KW	165				
			PLUS					
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)					
			0- 200 units	6.80				
			Above 200 units	8.05				
4	LT 3 Commercial Lighting, Heating and motive power, Private Hospitals, Clinics, IT Enabled Services, IT based Medical Transcription centers, X-ray Units, Shops, Hotels, etc. as in the existing tariff	LT-3(i): Applicable to areas coming under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Municipal Corporation and all areas coming under Urban Local Bodies.	**Fixed charges/month**	**Rs**	LT 3 Commercial Lighting, Heating and motive power, Private Hospitals, Clinics, IT Enabled Services, IT based Medical Transcription centers, X-ray Units, Shops, Hotels, etc. as in the existing tariff	"Applicable in BBMP Areas, Municipal Corporations, all other Urban Local Bodies and Village Panchayats."		
			125 per KW up to and inclusive of 50 KW	125			**Fixed charges/month**	**Rs**
			230 per KW for every additional KW above 50KW	230			260 per KW up to and inclusive of 50 KW	260
			PLUS				360 per KW for every additional KW above 50KW	360
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)					
			For 0-50 units	8.40			**Energy Charges**	
			Above 50 units	9.40			all units	7.70
			Demand Based Tariff (Optional) where sanctioned load is above 5kW but below 150kW				A rebate of 50 paise per unit in energy charges is provided for the consumers of village panchayats.	
			Fixed charges up to and inclusive of 50 kw	140			**Demand Based Tariff (Optional) where sanctioned load is above 5kW but below 150kW**	
			Fixed charges for every additional KW above 50 KW	245			**Fixed charges up to and inclusive of 50 kW**	280
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)				**Fixed charges for every additional KW above 50 kW**	490
			For the first 50 Units	8.40			**Energy Charges (Rs./u)**	
			For the balance units	9.40			all units	7.70
		LT-3(ii): Applicable in areas under village panchayat	**Fixed charges/month**	**Rs**				
			115 per KW up to and inclusive of 50 KW	115				
			220 per KW for every additional KW above 50KW	220				
			PLUS					
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)					
			For 0- 50 Units	7.90				
			Above 50 units	8.90				
			Demand Based Tariff (Optional) where sanctioned load is above 5KW but below 150KW					
			Fixed charges up to and inclusive of 50 KW	130				
			Fixed charges/month for every additional KW above 50 KW	235				
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)					
			For the first 50 Units	7.90				
			For the balance units	8.90				
5	LT 4: IP sets (10 HP & below) Agriculture IP sets, including sprinklers, Agricultural IP set (10 HP & below), IP Sets used in Nurseries of forest and horticulture depts., Grass, Plantation other than Coffee, Tea, and private horticulture, nurseries, category	LT-4a: Applicable to Agriculture Pump sets upto & inclusive of 10 HP fed from RURAL FEEDERS- Till the meters are fixed:	**Fixed Charges Rs / HP**	**Free as per GoK order**	LT 4: IP sets (10 HP & below) Agriculture IP sets, including sprinklers, Agricultural IP set (10 HP & below), IP Sets used in Nurseries of forest and horticulture depts., Grass, Plantation other than Coffee, Tea, and private horticulture, nurseries, categoory	LT-4a: Applicable to I.P. Sets up to and inclusive of 10 HP.	**Fixed Charges Rs / HP**	**Free as per GoK order**
			Energy Charges (Rs/Unit)	**Free as per GoK order**			**Energy Charges**	**Free as per GoK order**
			Commission determined tariff (Rs/Unit)	4.55			Commission Determined Tariff (CDT) for LT-4 (a) category is	7.55
		LT 4(b): Applicable to IP Sets above 10 HP	**Fixed Charges Rs/HP/month**	110		LT 4(b): Applicable to IP sets above 10 HP.	**Fixed Charges Rs/HP/month**	135
			Energy Charges Rs/Unit	3.90			**Energy Charges Rs/Unit**	6.00
		LT-4c(i): Applicable to Private Horticultural Nurseries, Coffee, Tea & Rubber Plantations irrespecitive of sanctioned load	**Fixed Charges Rs/HP/month**	100		LT-4c(i): Applicable to Horticultural Nurseries, Coffee and Tea plantations	**Fixed Charges Rs/HP/month**	140
			Energy Charges Rs/Unit	3.90			**Energy Charges Rs/Unit**	6.00
6	LT 5 Industrial, Non-industrial, Heating & Motive Power incl. Lighting.	LT-5(a) Applicable to Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and Municipal Corporation	**Fixed Charges per HP/month**	**Rs**	LT 5 Industrial, Non-industrial, Heating & Motive Power incl. Lighting.	Applicable in BBMP Areas, Municipal Corporations, all other Urban Local Bodies and Village Panchayats.		
			5 HP & below	90			**Fixed Charges per HP/month**	**Rs**
			>5 upto 40 HP	100			<=40 HP	160
			>40 upto <67 HP	125			>40 up to <=100 HP	210
			>67 upto <100 HP	190			>=100 HP	280
			>=100 HP	225				
			PLUS				**PLUS**	
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)				**Energy Charges (Rs./u)**	
			0 to 500 units	6.05			all units	6.20
			Above 500 units	7.35			A rebate of 50 paise per unit in energy charges is provided for the consumers of village panchayats.	
			Demand based (optional)					
			Above 5HP and less than 40 HP	120 per KW of billing demand				
			40HP and abobe but less than 67 HP	155 per KW of billing demand				
			67 HP and above but below 100 HP	240 per KW of billing demand				
			100 HP and above	255 per KW of billing demand				
			PLUS					
			Energy Charges (Rs./u) as above					
		LT-5(b) Applicable to all areas other than those covered under LT-5(a)	Fixed Charges per HP/month				**Demand based (optional)**	
			5 HP & below	80			Less than 40 HP	Rs. 360 per KW of billing demand
			>5 up to 40 HP	95			Above 40 HP up to 100 HP	Rs. 480 per KW of billing demand
			>40 up to <67 HP	120			Above 100 HP	Rs. 510 per KW of billing demand
			>67 up to <100 HP	175			PLUS	
			>=100 HP	210			Energy Charges (Rs./u) as above	
			PLUS					
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)					
			0 to 500 units	5.75				
			501 to 1000 units	6.70				
			Above 1000 units	7.00				
			Demand based (optional)					
			Above 5HP and less than 40 HP	110 per KW of billing demand				
			40HP and abobe but less than 67 HP	145 per KW of billing demand				
			67 HP and above but below 100 HP	230 per KW of billing demand				
			100 HP and above	245 per KW of billing demand				
			PLUS					
			Energy Charges (Rs./u) as above					
			TOD Tariff (Optional)-applicable to LT-5(a) &(b)				**TOD Tariff (Optional)-applicable to LT-5(a) &(b)**	
			Time of Day Increase(+) / reduction (-) in energy charges over the normal tariff applicable				**Time of Day Increase(+) / reduction (-) in energy charges over the normal tariff applicable**	
			06.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs	0			**Time Slot** / Dec to June / July to Nov	
			10.00 Hrs to 18.00 Hrs	0			06.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs (Peak)	1.50 / 1.00
			18.00 Hrs to 22.00 Hrs	From July to November(monsoon period)-0 from December to June (+) 100 paise per unit			10.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs (Off-Peak)	-0.75 / -0.75
			22.00 Hrs to 06.00 Hrs (Next day)	From July to November(monsoon period)-0 from December to June (-) 100 paise per unit			15.00 Hrs to 18.00 Hrs (Normal)	0 / 0
							18.00 Hrs to 22.00 Hrs (Peak)	1.50 / 1.00
							22.00 Hrs to 24.00 Hrs (Normal)	0 / 0
							24.00 Hrs to 06.00 Hrs (Off-Peak)	-0.75 / -0.75

Posing as policemen, gang of five robs staff of arecanut businessman of ₹80 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Posing as policemen, a gang of five persons robbed ₹80 lakh from the driver and the employee of an arecanut businessman in Wilson Garden police station limits recently.

Based on the description provided by the victims, the police have registered a case of abduction, robbery, and criminal intimidation against them. Efforts are on to track down the accused through the CCTV camera footage from in and around the area.

Chandan, driver of Mohan Kumar, said that he was asked by his employer to carry two bags with ₹80 lakh to give to his business partner in Salem in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Mohan Kumar also asked his staffer Kumaraswamy to accompany Mr. Chandan. On the way, a private car with a police sticker intercepted their SUV and two persons, wearing the police uniform and holding fibre canes, got into their car and asked them to drive.

While Mr. Chandan started to drive, the others followed in their car. The SUV reached the BTS service road and the accused beat them for carrying out illegal activities and threatened them with dire consequences. After a while, they picked up the cash-laden bags, asked them to follow them to the station, and got into the car and sped away.

The Wilson garden police are suspecting insiders' involvement and are probing further.

7	LT 6	LT 6(a): Water Supply, Sewerage & Pumping of village Panchayat, Mandal Panchayat, Town Panchayat & Municipalities, Towns, Corporations, State & Central Govt. APMC, Water supply installations including Residential layouts, Charitable organizations.	Fixed Charges/ HP/month up to 67 HP	110	LT 6	LT 6(a): Water Supply, Sewerage & Pumping of village Panchayat, Mandal Panchayat, Town Panchayat & Municipalities, Towns, Corporations, State & Central Govt.APMC, Water supply installations including Residential layouts, Charitable organizations.	Fixed Charges/HP/ month up to 67 HP	160						
			Fixed Charges/HP/month for every additional kw above 67 HP	215			Fixed Charges/HP/ month for every additional kw above 67 HP	240						
			PLUS				PLUS							
			Energy Charges (Rs./unit)	5.00			Energy Charges (Rs./unit)	6.00						
		LT 6(b): Street lights, public lighting , City Municipalities, Corporations, State & Central Govt, APMC, Traffic Signal Sub-ways.	Fixed Charges/KW/month	125		LT 6(b): Street lights, public lighting , City Municipalities, Corporations, State & Central Govt, APMC, Traffic Signal Sub-ways.	Fixed Charges/KW/month	180						
			PLUS				PLUS							
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)	6.70			Energy Charges (Rs./u)	7.00						
			Energy Charges (Rs./u) - LED/ induction Lighting	5.65			Energy Charges (Rs./u) - LED/induction Lighting	6.25						
		LT 6(c): Electric Vehicle Charging stations	Fixed or demand charges Rs./ KW/ month up to 50 KW (LT)	70		LT 6(c): Electric Vehicle Charging stations	Fixed or demand charges Rs./KW/month up to 50 KW (LT)	70						
			Fixed or demand charges Rs./ KW/ month for every additional kw above 50 KW (LT)	170			Fixed or demand charges Rs./KW/ month for every additional kw above 50 KW (LT)	170						
			Fixed or demand charges Rs./ KVA/ month (HT)	200			Fixed or demand charges Rs./ KVA / month (HT)	200						
			Energy Charges (Rs./u) (for both LT and HT)	5.00			Energy Charges (for both LT and HT)	5.00						
		ToD tariff applicable for the power supply availed under HT supply for charging the Electric Motor Vehicle in the Depots of BMTC/ Depots of KSRTC/ NEKRTC/ NWKRTC only	TOD Tariff			TOD Tariff applicable for power supply availed under HT supply for charging the Electric Motor Vehicle in the Depots of BMTC/ Depots of KSRTC/ NEKRTC/ NWKRTC only								
			Time of Day Increase(+) / reduction (-) in energy charges over the normal tariff applicable				Time of Day Increase(+) / reduction (-) in energy charges over the normal tariff applicable							
			Times Slot				Time Slot	Dec to June	July to Nov					
			06.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs	0.00			06.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs (Peak)	1.50	1.00					
			10.00 Hrs to 18.00 Hrs	0.00			10.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs (Off-Peak)	-0.75	-0.75					
			18.00 Hrs to 22.00 Hrs	From July to Novem-ber(monsoon period)-0 from Decem-ber to June (+) 100 paise per unit			15.00 Hrs to 18.00 Hrs (Normal)	0.00	0.00					
							18.00 Hrs to 22.00 Hrs (Peak)	1.50	1.00					
			22.00 Hrs to 06.00 Hrs Next day	From July to November (monsoon period)-0 from Decem-ber to June (-) 100 paise per unit			22.00 Hrs to 24.00 Hrs (Normal)	0.00	0.00					
							24.00 Hrs to 06.00 Hrs (Off-Peak)	-0.75	-0.75					
8	LT 7	LT 7(a): Temporary Power Supply	Less than 67 HP		LT 7	Temporary Power Supply								
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)	11.20			Less than 67 HP	360						
			Subject to Weekly Minimum Charge per kW of sanctioned load is	275			Energy Charges/ unit	13.00						
		LT 7(b): Temporary Power Supply-hoardings and Advertisement - permanent basis	Less than 67 HP											
			Energy Charges (Rs./u)	11.20										
			Fixed or demand charges Rs./ KW/ month	150										
			HT											
		HT SUPPLY - 11 KV & ABOVE	HT SUPPLY - 11 KV & ABOVE	Rs		HT SUPPLY - 11 KV & ABOVE	HT SUPPLY - 11 KV & ABOVE	Rs						
9	HT 1	Public Water Supply and Sewerage Pumping installations	Monthly Demand Charges (Rs./kVA)	250	HT 1	Public Water Supply and Sewerage Pumping installations	Monthly Demand Charges (Rs./kVA)	500						
			PLUS				PLUS							
			Energy Charge (Rs./u)	5.60			Energy Charge (Rs./u)	6.00						
10	HT 2(a) Industrial and Non industrial & Non commercial Purposes	HT-2(a)(i): Applicable to Areas under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike(BBMP) and Municipal Corporation	Monthly Demand Charges (Rs./kVA)	275	"HT 2(a) Industrial and Non industrial & Non commercial Purposes "	Applicable to Areas under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Municipal Corporation and village panchayaths	Monthly Demand Charges (Rs./kVA)	510						
			PLUS				PLUS							
			Energy Charge (Rs./u)				Energy Charge (Rs./u)							
			For the first 1 lakh units/month	7.50			all units	6.60						
			For the balance units/month	7.80										
		HT-2(a)(ii): Applicable to areas other than those covered under HT2a(i)	Monthly Demand Charges (Rs./kVA)	265										
			PLUS											
			Energy Charge (Rs./u)											
			For the first 1 lakh units/month	7.40										
			For the balance units/month	7.60										
		For Railway Traction	Demand Charges (/KVA)	275		For Railway Traction	Demand Charges (/KVA)	275						
			Energy Charge (Rs./u)	6.60			Energy Charge (Rs./u)	6.60						
		For Effluent Treatment Plants	Demand Charges per kVA of billing demand/month	275		For Effluent Treatment Plants	Demand Charges per kVA of billing demand/month	275						
			Energy Charge (Rs./u) for all the units	7.00			Energy Charge (Rs./u) for all the units	7.00						
		Bangalore Metropolitan Railwy Corporation Ltd., (BMRCL)	Monthly Demand Charges (Rs./kVA)	245		Bangalore Metropolitan Railwy Corporation Ltd., (BMRCL)	Monthly Demand Charges (Rs./kVA)	245						
			PLUS				PLUS							
			Energy Charge (Rs./u)	5.25			Energy Charge (Rs./u)	5.25						
11	HT 2(b) Commercial installation, Hotels, Banks, IT enabled Services, Petrol / diesel storages plants etc.	HT-2(b)(i): Applicable to Areas under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike(BBMP) and Municipal Corporation	Monthly Demand Charges (per kVA)	300	"HT 2(b) Commercial installation, Hotels, Banks, IT enabled Services, Petrol / diesel storages plants etc."	Applicable to BBMP area Municipal Corporation and Village panchayaths.								
			PLUS											
			Energy Charge (Rs / unit)											
			For first 2 Lakh Units / month	9.30			Monthly Demand Charges (per kVA)	510						
			For the balance units in the month	9.40			PLUS							
		HT-2(b)(ii): Applicable to areas other than those covered under HT2b(i)	Monthly Demand Charges (per kVA)	290			Energy Charge (Rs / unit)							
			PLUS				all units	7.10						
			Energy Charge (Rs / unit)											
			For first 2 Lakh Units / month	9.10										
			For the balance units in the month	9.20										
12	HT 2(c) Hospitals, Nursing Home, .and Educational Institutions	HT-2(c)(i): Applicable to Government Hospitals and ESI and Universities, Educational Institutions belonging to Government, aided institutions	Monthly Demand Charges (per kVA)	260	HT 2(c) Hospitals, Nursing Home and Educational Institutions	Applicable to BBMP area Municipal Corporation and Village panchayaths.								
			PLUS											
			Energy Charge (Rs / unit)											
			For first 1 Lakh Units / month	7.25			Monthly Demand Charges (per kVA)	510						
			For the balance units in the month	7.65			PLUS							
		HT-2(c)(ii): Applicable Hospitals and Educational institutions other than those covered under HT2c(i)	Monthly Demand Charges (per kVA)	265			Energy Charge (Rs / unit)							
			PLUS				For first 1 Lakh Units / month	6.90						
			Energy Charge (Rs / unit)											
			For first 1 Lakh Units / month	8.25										
			For the balance units in the month	8.65										
13	HT 3(a) Lift Irrigation Schemes/ Societies	HT-3(a)(i): Applicable to Lift Irrigation Schemes under Govt departments / Govt owned Corporations	Energy charge of 315 paise per unit subject to an annual minimum of Rs.1900/- HP/Annum	3.15	HT 3(a) Lift Irrigation Schemes/ Societies	HT-3(a)(i): Applicable to Lift Irrigation Schemes under Govt departments / Govt owned Corporations	Energy charge of 600 paise per unit subject to an annual minimum of Rs 3000/- HP / Annum	6.00						
		HT-3(a)(ii): Applicable to Private Lift Irrigation Schemes and Lift Irrigation Societies	Fixed Charges Rs/HP/month of sanctioned load	110		HT-3(a)(ii): Applicable to Private LI Schemes and Lift Irrigation Societies								
			Energy Charges Rs/Unit	3.15			Fixed Charges Rs / HP/ month of sd load	500						
		HT-3(a)(iii): Applicable to Private Lift Irrigation Schemes and Lift Irrigation Societies	Fixed Charges Rs /HP/month of sanctioned load	90										
			Energy Charges Rs /Unit	3.15			Energy Charges Rs / Unit	6.00						
14	HT 3(b)	Irrigation & Agricultural farms, Govt. Horticulture Farms, Private Horticulture Nurseries, Coffee, Tea, Coconut & Arecanut Plantations.	Energy charge of 515 paise per unit subject to an annual minimum of Rs.1960/- HP of sanctioned load	5.15	HT 3(b)	Irrigation & Agricultural Farms Government Horticulture farms, Private Horticulture Nurseries, Coffee, tea, Coconut & Arecanut Plantations:	Energy charge of 525 paise per unit subject to an annual minimum of Rs. 3000/- HP of sanctioned load	5.25						
15	HT 4	Residential apartments and colonies availing power Supply independently and Govt Hospitals	Monthly Demand Charges (per kVA)	175	HT 4	Residential apartments and colonies availing power Supply independently and Govt Hospitals	Monthly Demand Charges (per kVA)	510						
			PLUS				PLUS							
			Energy Charge (Rs./u)	7.10			Energy Charge (Rs./u)	5.30						
			TOD Tariff applicable to HT1, HT 2(a), HT2(b) and HT2(c) category				TOD Tariff applicable to all HT categories							
			Time of Day Increase(+) / reduction (-) in energy charges over the normal tariff applicable				Time of Day Increase(+) / reduction (-) in energy charges over the normal tariff applicable							
			06.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs	0.00			Time Slot	Dec to June	July to Nov					
			10.00 Hrs to 18.00 Hrs	0.00			06.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs (Peak)	1.50	1.00					
			18.00 Hrs to 22.00 Hrs	From July to November (monsoon period)-0 from December to June (+) 100 paise per unit			10.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs (Off-Peak)	-0.75	-0.75					
							15.00 Hrs to 18.00 Hrs (Normal)	0.00	0.00					
							18.00 Hrs to 22.00 Hrs (Peak)	1.50	1.00					
			22.00 Hrs to 06.00 Hrs Next day	From July to November (monsoon period)-0 from December to June (-) 100 paise per unit			22.00 Hrs to 24.00 Hrs (Normal)	0.00	0.00					
							24.00 Hrs to 06.00 Hrs (Off-Peak)	-0.75	-0.75					
16	HT 5	Temporary Supply	For sanctioned load 67 HP & above	325	HT 5	Temporary Supply	For sanctioned load 67 HP & above	610						
			Energy Charges/ unit	11.20			Energy Charges/ unit	11.00						
			Fixed Charges of Rs. 325/- per HP per month for the entire sanction load /contract demand				Fixed Charges of Rs.610/- per HP per month for the entire sanction load / contract demand							
17	HT 5a	Temporary Supply -BIEC	For sanctioned load 67 HP & above			Temporary Supply -BIEC	Energy Charges/ unit	13.00						
			Energy Charges/ unit	12.55										

READY RECKONER

Annexure-2

Category	Type of installation	Consumption level (KWH) per Month (units)	Monthly bill as per existing Tariff (Rs.)	Monthly bill as per proposed Tariff (Rs.)	%age of increase (without tax)
LT-1	Bhagya Jyothi/Kutira Jyothi (fully subsidized by GoK)				
	100 watts	20	174	199	14.37
		40	348	398	14.37
LT-2a(i)	AEH/Applicable to areas coming under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Municipal Corporation and Urban Local bodies				
	up to 1 KW	50	308	330	7.14
		100	588	690	17.35
	3 KW	200	1523	2150	41.17
		300	2343	2850	21.64
		400	3163	3550	12.24
LT-2a(ii)	AEH/Applicable to areas under Village Panchayats				
	up to 1 KW	50	288	318	10.42
		100	553	665	20.25
	3 KW	200	1438	2100	46.04
		300	2208	2775	25.68
		400	2978	3450	15.85
LT-2b(i)	Pvt. Educational Institutions/Areas under BBMP Areas, City Corporation and all areas coming under Urban Local bodies				
	up to 1 KW	100	885	1010	14.12
	3 KW	200	1830	2190	19.67
		300	2690	2940	9.29
		400	3550	3690	3.94
LT-2b(ii)	Pvt. Educational Institutions/Applicable in areas under Village Panchayats				
	up to 1 KW	100	815	960	17.79
	3 KW	200	1690	2090	23.67
		300	2495	2790	11.82
		400	3300	3490	5.76
LT-3(i)	Applicable to areas under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Municipal Corporation and all areas under Urban Local Bodies				
	for 1 KW	50	545	645	18.35
		100	1015	1030	1.48
	For 5 KW	100	1515	2070	36.63
		300	3395	3610	6.33
		500	5275	5150	-2.37
	For 10 KW	100	2140	3370	57.48
		300	4020	4910	22.14
		500	5900	6450	9.32
		1000	10600	10300	-2.83
LT-3(ii)	Applicable in areas under village panchayaths				
	for 1 KW	50	510	620	21.57
		100	955	980	2.62
	For 5 KW	100	1415	2020	42.76
		300	3195	3460	8.29
		500	4975	4900	-1.51
	For 10 KW	100	1990	3320	66.83

Bangalore - Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority

No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 009
Tel : 080 22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-02/50/2022-23/1541 **Date: 02.01.2023**

PUBLICATION

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

M/s Vaishnodevi Lush Greens Pvt. Ltd. its Representative Shri Vimal Jain Kataria & Others has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose under See 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy. No: 3/1 Extent 01 Acre-39 Guntas, Sy.No: 3/2 Extent 0 Acre-34½ Guntas, Sy.No: 3/3 Extent 01 Acre-32 Gruntas Sy.No: 3/4 Extent 0Acre-17¼ Guntas, Sy.No: 3/5 Extent 0 Acre-17¼ Guntas, Sy No: 4/1 Extent 01 Acre-25 Guntas, Sy.No: 4/2 Extent 01 Acre-22 Guntas, Sy No: 4/3 Extent 02 Acre-31Guntas, Sy. No: 4/4 Extent 00 Acre-31 Guntas, Sy.No: 4/5 Extent 01 Acre-26 Guntas, Sy No: 4/6 Extent 00 Acre-31 Guntas, Sy.No: 5/1 Extent 01Acre-12 Guntas, Sy No: 5/2 Extent 01 Acre-13 Guntas Sy.No: 5/3 Extent 02 Acre-19 Guntas, Sy No: 5/4 Extent 00 Acre-26½ Guntas, Sy No: 5/6 Extent 00 Acre-26½ Guntas, Sy.No: 6/1 Extent 01Acre-00 Guntas, Sy No: 6/2 Extent 00 Acre-17 Guntas, Sy No: 6/3 Extent 01Acre-20Guntas, Sy No: 6/4 Extent 00 Acre-38 Guntas, Sy No 7/1 Extent 00 Acre-33 Guntas, Sy.No: 7/2 Extent 01 Acre-39 Guntas, Sy.No: 7/3 Extent 00 Acre-33 Guntas, Sy.No. 7/4 Extent 00 Acre-05 Guntas, Sy.No: 7/5 Extent 00Acre-05 Guntas, Sy.No: 7/6 Extent 00 Acre-05 Guntas, Sy.No: 66/7 Extent 00 Acre-08 Guntas, Sy.No: 67/1E Extent 00 Acre-17 Guntas, Sy No: 67/2F Extent 00 Acre-18Guntas, Sy.No: 70 Extent 04 Acre-32 Guntas totally measuring 34 Acre-33 Guntas of Chikkakuntanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) If these land are developed, therein well developed sites/houses will be available to all.
2) If these lands are developed, job facilities will be available to all sectors of labours.
3) If these lands are developed, good roads civic amenity sites and parks etc, will be available for general public.
4) If these lands are developed, surrounding area will also get developed.
5) If these lands are developed and layout is formed thereon, it will help the workers working near by Bidadi Industrial Area in obtaining residential sites/houses in the said lands.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 16 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 16 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary
B.M.I.C.A.P.A, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/3836/AKAR/22-23

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(Government of karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yettinahole Project Division No 4, Madhugiri. Tumkur Dist-572132, Ph: 08137- 282112
E-mail: eeyetmadhugiri4@gmail.com
Sl No: EE:VJNL/YHP/Div-No.4/Madhugiri/NIT-13-1/2022-23
Dated:31.12.2022

Corrigendum-1
(Through E-procurement system)

On Behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Karnataka is inviting tenders in Two tender document system on " Percentage tender basis" from Eligible contractor's for Construction of Yettinahole main canal vide this office tender notification No.13/2022-23 dated:20.12.2022.

Name of Work: (1) Construction of Aquaduct from Ch Km. 258.810 to Km 259.440 including construction of Causeway CD works, and other structures under yettinahole project YGC Pkg-XXVII. Amount put to tender Rs. In Lakhs (Excluding GST) : 4210.19 **(2)** Construction of gravity canal from Km.259.440 to Km 261.00 comprising of earth work excavation, formation of embankment, CC lining using mechanical paver including construction of CD works, Aquaduct and other structures under yettinahole project YGC Pkg-XXVIII. Amount put to tender: Rs.In Lakhs (Excluding GST) : 3955.28 **(3)** Construction of gravity canal from Km.261.00 to Km 261.690 comprising of earth work excavation, formation of embankment, CC lining using mechanical paver including construction of CD works, Cut & Cover and other structures under yettinahole project YGC Pkg-XXIX. Amount put to tender: Rs. In Lakhs (Excluding GST) : 1714.17

further the calendar of event as follows:

Events & Dates: (1) PERIOD OF DOWNLOADING OF TENDER DOCUMENT **03.01.2023 to 17.01.2023** up to 5.30 PM **(2)** DATE AND PLACE OF PRE BID MEETING **10.01.2023** at 11.00AM in office of the Chief Engineer, VJNL, YHP Zone, Tumakur **(3)** LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF E-TENDERS **17.01.2023** up to 5.30 PM (4) TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TENDER (Technical Bid) **19.01.2023** at 11.00 AM

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
V.J.N.L, YHP Division No.4, Madhugiri.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, Shivamogga - 577201
Ph: 08182 - 08182-225544 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: SEE/SMG/CO/AEE(C)2022-23/13241-46 **Date: 30.12.2022**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

MESCOM invites tenders through e-Procurement mode only from the Registered KPWD contractors having EPF, ESI, GSTand Labour Department Registration for Civil works bearing Indent No. 1880, 1881, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1903, 1904, 1913, 1914 & 1915.

For detailed information and to participate in the tender through e-procurement mode please access the tendering website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on** or after **03.01.2023, 11.00 am.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superinteding Engineer (Elecl), O&M Circle Shimoga

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. 908/BGKT/Tr(W&M)/SEE/EE(O)/AEE-1 /F-53/5954-62 **Date: 02.01.2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites bids vide **Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/BGK/SEE/22-23/110kVBGK-NVG_2/CALL-2** for heightening of existing line by replacing the 110kV DB+0 tower by 110kV NBT DD+12 type towers of **110kV Bagalkote-Navanagar D/C line** at **location No. 23-24 & 24-25** for safety of School premises at **1)** Govt Primary School No. 03 Navanagar & **2)** Govt Primary School No. 22 Navanagar in Bagalkote under TLM Section KPTCL Bagalkote in TL&SSM Division KPTCL, Bagalkot on TTK basis.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed Notification regarding the subject tender can be got by logging on to KPTCL wesite **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **'e-procurement-kptcl'** or **https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in on or after 03.01.2023.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),Tr. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Zonal Office Complex, Opp. Sector No. 45, Navanagar, Bagalkot - 587103.

Government of Karnataka

Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department

Office of the Director, No. 34, Lotus Towers, Race Course Road, Bangalore -01

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪವಕನಿ/ಬುಉಯೋ/ಸಿಆರ್–16/2019–20 ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02.01.2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal only)

The Director, Directorate of Welfare of Scheduled Tribes has invited tenders through e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for Providing 10 Mobile Health Unit Services on behalf of Department of Welfare of Scheduled Tribes for Scheduled Tribe people in 5 Districts of Kalyana Karnataka as detailed below :

Tender Details: Providing 10 Mobile Health Unit Services for Scheduled Tribe people in 5 Districts of Kalyana Karnataka. Tender Starting Date: **03.01.2023,** Last date for submission of tender:**02.02.2023.** Approx. tender amount: **Rs. 3,78,00,000/-**

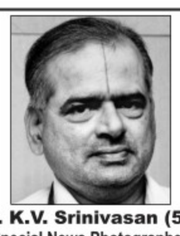
Special Note : More details can be had from the Office of the Directorate of Welfare of Scheduled Tribes during office hours. **Contact No: 080-22261787.**

Sd/- Deputy Director,
Directorate of Scheduled Tribes Welfare

DIPR/CP/JA/3835/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Mr. K.V. Srinivasan (56),
Special News Photographer,
The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 02-01-2023.
Address: S-1, Jain Parthas Court, 73, T P Koil Street, Triplicane, Chennai-600005.
Mobile: 9444013690

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

5th ANNIVERSARY

KALA BALASUBRAMANIAM

So many talents, some unsung,
So many facets, serious and fun,
A feisty fighter, all challenges faced,
Win or lose, her will never erased.

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE
Dr. M.Balasubramaniam & Family

		300	3770	4760	26.26
		500	5550	6200	11.71
		1000	10000	9800	-2.00
LT-4a	Irrigation Pumpsets 10HP and below (fully subsidized by GoK)				
	10HP and below	600	2730	4527	65.82
LT-4b	11 HP	375	2673	3735	39.73
LT-4c(i)	10 HP	284	2108	3104	47.25
LT-5a	Industrial, Non-Industrial Heating and Motive power including Lighting/Applicable to areas under Bangalore Metropolitan area				
	5 HP	200	1660	2040	22.89
		300	2265	2660	17.44
		500	3475	3900	12.23
	10 HP	600	4760	5320	11.76
		800	6230	6560	5.30
		1000	7700	7800	1.30
	20 HP	1500	12375	12500	1.01
		2000	16050	15600	-2.80
		3000	23400	21800	-6.84
	50 HP	3000	27650	29100	5.24
		4000	35000	35300	0.86
		7000	57050	53900	-5.52
	65 HP	4000	36875	38450	4.27
		5000	44225	44650	0.96
		10000	80975	75650	-6.58
	75 HP	7000	65050	59150	-9.07
		9000	79750	71550	-10.28
		11000	94450	83950	-11.12
LT-5b	Industrial, Non-Industrial Heating and Motive power including Lighting/Applicable to areas other than Bangalore Metropolitan area				
	5 HP	200	1550	1940	25.16
		300	2125	2510	18.12
		500	3275	3650	11.45
	10 HP	600	4495	5020	11.68
		800	5835	6160	5.57
		1000	7175	7300	1.74
	20 HP	1500	11625	11750	1.08
		2000	15125	14600	-3.47
		3000	22125	20300	-8.25
	50 HP	3000	26225	27600	5.24
		4000	33225	33300	0.23
		7000	54225	50400	-7.05
	65 HP	4000	35025	36450	4.07
		5000	42025	42150	0.30
		10000	77025	70650	-8.28
	75 HP	7000	61350	55650	-9.29
		9000	75350	67050	-11.02
		11000	89350	78450	-12.20
LT-6(b)	Street Lights/Public Lighting Installations				
	3 KW	200	1715	1940	13.12
	5 KW	300	2635	3000	13.85
	10 KW	500	4600	5300	15.22
LT-6(a)	Water Supply and Sewerage pumping installations				
	3 HP	500	2830	3480	22.97
	5 HP	1000	5550	6800	22.52
	10 HP	2000	11100	13600	22.52
LT-6(c)	Electric Vehicle-LT				
	for 1 KW	50	320	320	0.00
		100	570	570	0.00
	For 5 KW	100	850	850	0.00
		300	1850	1850	0.00
		500	2850	2850	0.00
	Electric Vehicle-HT				
	100 KVA	6000	47000	47000	0.00
		10000	67000	67000	0.00
		14000	87000	87000	0.00
	1000 KVA	60000	470000	470000	0.00
		100000	670000	670000	0.00
		210000	1220000	1220000	0.00
HT-1	Water Supply and Sewerage Installations				
	100 KVA	9000	71650	96500	34.68
		10000	77250	102500	32.69
		11000	82850	108500	30.96
	300 KVA	10000	119750	187500	56.58
		14000	142150	211500	48.79
		20000	175750	247500	40.83
	1000 KVA	110000	828500	1085000	30.96
		130000	940500	1205000	28.12
		150000	1052500	1325000	25.89
	6000 KVA	400000	3515000	4950000	40.83
		500000	4075000	5550000	36.20
		600000	4635000	6150000	32.69
HT-2(a)(i)	Industrial/Bangalore Metropolitan Area of BBMP and City Municipal Council				
	300 KVA	12000	160125	209250	30.68
		15000	182625	229050	25.42
		20000	220125	262050	19.05
		110000	898125	856050	-4.68
	Railway Traction				
	9000 KVA	1000000	8703750	8703750	0.00
		2000000	15303750	15303750	0.00
	Effluent/Sewage Treatment				
	9000 KVA	1000000	9103750	9103750	0.00
		2000000	16103750	16103750	0.00
	BMRCL				
	9000 KVA	1000000	7124250	7124250	0.00
		2000000	12374250	12374250	0.00
HT-2(a)(ii)	Applicable to areas other than Bangalore Metropolitan area				
	300 KVA	12000	156375	209250	33.81
		15000	178575	229050	28.27
		20000	215575	262050	21.56
		110000	883575	856050	-3.12
	Railway Traction				
	9000 KVA	1000000	8703750	8703750	0.00
		2000000	15303750	15303750	0.00
	Effluent/Sewage Treatment				
	9000 KVA	1000000	9103750	9103750	0.00
		2000000	16103750	16103750	0.00
HT-2(b)(i)	Commercial/Bangalore Metropolitan Area of BBMP and City Municipal Council				
	100 KVA	6000	81300	85950	5.72
		10000	118500	114350	-3.50
		14000	155700	142750	-8.32
	1000 KVA	60000	813000	859500	5.72
		100000	1185000	1143500	-3.50
		210000	2209000	1924500	-12.88
HT-2(b)(ii)	Commercial/Applicable to areas other than Bangalore Metropolitan Area				
	100 KVA	6000	79250	85950	8.45
		10000	115650	114350	-1.12
		14000	152050	142750	-6.12
	1000 KVA	60000	792500	859500	8.45
		100000	1156500	1143500	-1.12
		210000	2158500	1924500	-10.84
HT-2(c)(i)	Govt. Hospitals and Hospitals run by Charitable Institutions and ESI Hospitals, Govt. Universities, Educational Institutons, Local bodies, aided institutions and Hostels of all educational institutions				
	100 KVA	6000	65600	84750	29.19
		10000	94600	112350	18.76
		14000	123600	139950	13.23
	1000 KVA	60000	656000	847500	29.19
		100000	946000	1123500	18.76
		210000	1787500	1882500	5.31
HT-2(c)(ii)	Applicable to Hospitals and Educational institutions other than those covered under HT-2©(i)				
	100 KVA	6000	72025	84750	17.67
		10000	105025	112350	6.97
		14000	138025	139950	1.39
	1000 KVA	60000	720250	847500	17.67
		100000	1050250	1123500	6.97
		210000	2001750	1882500	-5.96
HT-4	Residential Apartment/ Colonies/ Applicable to all areas				
	100 KVA	6000	57475	75150	30.75
		10000	85875	96350	12.20
		12000	100075	106950	6.87
	1000 KVA	60000	574750	751500	30.75
		100000	858750	963500	12.20
		120000	1000750	1069500	6.87

NOTE: (1) HT consumers also have additional Time of Day rebate of 75 ps./unit during 10:00 a.m to 03:00 p.m
(2) In addition to the above, taxes levied/leviable by the State Government from time to time shall be applicable

INBRIEF

Omar Lulu's *Nalla Samayam* withdrawn from cinemas

Filmmaker Omar Lulu has withdrawn his latest Malayalam movie *Nalla Samayam* from the cinemas, three days after its release. The Kozhikode range of the Excise department had registered a case against the director and the producer of the movie under the Abkari Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act over allegations of the movie and its trailer promoting the use of banned synthetic drugs, including MDMA. On Monday, the director announced that he is withdrawing the movie and other matters will be decided based on the court order. Officials had said that there were several complaints against the teaser as it carried dialogues encouraging substance abuse.

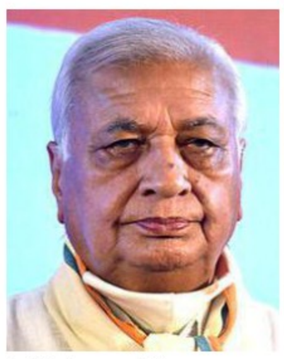
Khan keeps govt. guessing on Cherian's return to Cabinet

He said he had 'not made up my mind' on administering Saji Cherian the oath of office; the Governor added that the accusations bore gravity, and Raj Bhavan could ill afford to gloss over it

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan seemed to place the government on tenterhooks by refusing to commit whether he would assent to the ruling front's decision to reinduct Saji Cherian, MLA, into the Pinarayi Vijayan Cabinet.

Mr. Khan told pressperson, who mobbed him at the airport on his arrival from New Delhi, that the charge against Mr. Cherian was that he lowered the dignity of the Constitution. Mr. Khan hinted that the accusation bore gravity, and the Raj Bhavan could ill afford to gloss over it casually.


Arif Mohammed Khan

"In normal circumstances, in my opinion, it is essential that the Governor accept the Chief Minister's recommendation. But in this case (Mr. Cherian's proposed return to power in the government) is totally different. He (Mr. Cherian) is not being sworn in for the first time," he said.

Mr. Khan said he had "not made up my mind" on administering Mr. Cherian the oath of office. "The circumstances are starkly different this time. It is not a normal induction. I will look at the papers, the background of the case, and at what level he (Mr. Cherian) was exonerated, if at all," he said.

An adverse decision from Mr. Khan could put the government in a legal and constitutional quandary.

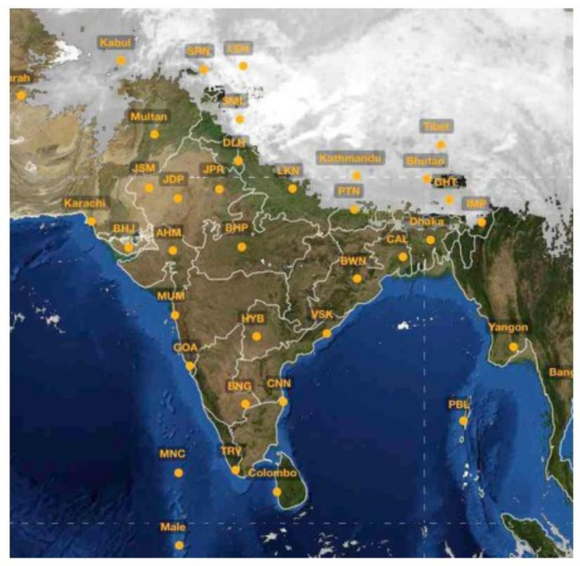
Legal opinion

Mr. Khan can take a stand not to permit the re-induction of Mr. Cherian unless he is convinced that the court of law has totally exonerated the former Minister from the charges levelled against him, according to the legal advice given by S. Gopakumaran Nair, senior High Court lawyer and legal adviser to the Governor.

(With inputs from Kochi)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	24.8	11.5	Kozhikode	—	33.7	23.6
Ahmedabad	—	27.0	13.1	Kurnool	—	32.7	21.3
Aizawl	—	—	5.9	Lucknow	—	17.0	10.0
Allahabad	—	15.0	11.2	Madurai	—	31.8	20.3
Bengaluru	—	28.0	16.1	Mangaluru	—	33.7	22.6
Bhopal	—	—	7.2	Mumbai	—	32.4	15.8
Bhubaneswar	—	28.8	19.9	Mysuru	—	30.5	12.6
Chandigarh	—	14.2	6.5	New Delhi	—	17.3	7.6
Chennai	—	30.8	22.6	Patna	—	16.8	12.7
Coimbatore	—	30.0	20.0	Port Blair	3	29.8	22.8
Dehradun	—	20.6	6.3	Puducherry	—	30.5	20.2
Gangtok	—	10.3	5.9	Pune	—	32.1	14.3
Goa	—	31.8	20.0	Raipur	—	29.1	15.5
Guwahati	—	24.7	10.2	Ranchi	—	22.6	11.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	18.0	Shillong	0.1	15.7	5.9
Hyderabad	—	30.2	20.4	Shimla	—	11.4	2.1
Imphal	—	22.7	4.5	Srinagar	—	8.8	-5.8
Jaipur	—	20.8	8.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.6	22.3
Kochi	—	31.0	23.4	Tiruchi	—	30.3	21.0
Kohima	—	15.0	4.6	Vijayawada	—	30.6	21.8
Kolkata	—	24.8	15.6	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	23.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	118	.60	136	110	
Bengaluru	8	84	.48	117	98	
Chennai	.23	.33	.33	119	93	
Delhi	.20	102	101	396	366	
Hyderabad	.12	4	.69	100	107	
Kolkata	9	.17	.43	267	130	
Lucknow	.10	.21	.85	266	180	
Mumbai	.41	192	.87	139	242	
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	.12	.30	.22	96	89	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhagalpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 420 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

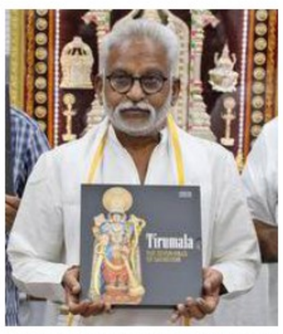
TTD Chairman releases book on Tirumala temple brought out by The Hindu Group

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

TTD Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy on Monday formally released a book titled '*Tirumala - The Seven Hills of Salvation*' brought out by *The Hindu*'s special publication wing.

The book, which deals at length with the temple of Lord Venkateswara, was brought out on the auspicious day of Vaikunta Ekadasi.

Curated by *Businessline* Editor Raghuvir Srinivasan, the book contains several interesting articles on the pivotal role played by Vaishnavite saint Ramanujacharya in establishing the rituals and customs at the Tirumala temple, the significance of 'Amuktamalyada' authored by the Vijayanagara king, Sri Krishnadevaraya, on Lord Venkateswara, the story of Ananthalwar, Srinivasa Kalyanam and the importance of Vaikunta Ekadasi among other things.


TTD Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy releasing the book brought out at Tirumala on Monday.

'Comprehensive book'

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Reddy extolled *The Hindu*'s publication team for bringing out a comprehensive book on the history and religious activities of the hill temple and said that the book had a refreshing look with mesmerising 3D photographs.

Going through the pages, he said that he would explore the possibility of getting the book printed in Telugu for the benefit of common pilgrims.

TTD JEO Veerabrahmam, Chief Vigilance and Security officer (CVSO) Narasimha Kishore, secretary of DG Vaishnav College Ashok Kumar Mundhra and treasurer Ashok Kedia were among those present. The college has sponsored a part of the initial printed copies of the book.

The Hindu Group's book store offers a special launch offer of 20% for a limited period from January 1 for booking copies.

Readers can also buy the book by clicking the link publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore or call 1800 102 1878 for enquiries.

NPS staff association withdraws dharna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Government NPS Employees' Association, which had been sitting on dharna seeking scrapping of New Pension Scheme and reverting to the Old Pension Scheme, withdrew the dharna on Monday after Health Minister K. Sudhakar assured them that a decision will be taken after an extended discussion during the Budget session.

DKS launches video series presenting Kanakapura model for development of Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With a few months to go for the Assembly elections in the State, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President D.K. Shivakumar launched a video series on his social media handles presenting the 'Kanakapura model' to ensure all-round development of Karnataka.

The video series showcase the infrastructure development ushered in the constituency during his tenure as an MLA, including the establishment of solar power generation parks, cleansing of lakes, upgrading of schools and colleges, ensuring water supply to all households, setting up new gyms and parks, and the impetus to the construction of new roads and pavements.

Mr. Shivakumar, who has been elected to the Assembly thrice from the Kanakapura constituency, has increased his vote share in every successive election.

Government of Karnataka
Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi)
Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri
Telephone No.08473-253311 e-mail:acyadgir@gmail.com
No.REV/LAQ/NH/02/2022-23 Date:22-12-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), the Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways, Central Government vide Notification Dated: 08.12.2022 declared the intention to acquire the land for building of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 34.00 to Km. 70.900 (Gulbarga-Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Kalaburagi in the state of Karnataka. The same is here with Published for Public Notice as per the sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act.

It is also informed not to carry out Purchase or Sale, Amortization, Any other documentation and Any Development works in respect of Lands notified under the Schedule of the afore said notification.

Sd/- (Shalam Hussain, KAS)
Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi),
Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri.

MINISTRY OF ROADTRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 08th December,2022

S.O. 5734(E).-In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (herein after referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that forthe public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening / four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 34.000 to Km. 70.900 (Gulbarga - Wadi Yadgir Section) in the district of Kalaburagi in the state of KARNATAKA,herebyde claresitsintentiontoacquiresuchland.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3 C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Assistant Commissioner Yadgir in writing and shall set out the grounds there of and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, andmay, after hearing all such objections and after makingsuch further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow theobjections.

Any or dermade by the Competent Authority under subsection(2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final. The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under the ir notification are avai lable an dcanbe inspected by the in terested per son at thea fore said office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 34.000 to Km. 70.900 (Gulbarga-Wadi-Yadgir Section) of the National Highway No. 150 in the state of Karnataka

State:KARNATAKA District: KALABURAGI (GULBARGA)

S. No.	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (inLocalUnit)	Area (inHectare)
Taluk:Chittapur					
Village:Wadi(NMCT)					
1	88	Private	NA/Dry	0.1214000(Hectare)	0.1214000
			Total	0.1214	0.1214

F.No.NH-12014/29/2016 KNT(P-6)3A]
DIP/Yadagiri/389/MCA/2022-23
Sd/-
RAJESHGUPTA, Director

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

No: EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/JE/JJM/E-Proc/2022-23/2068 **Date: 30.12.2022**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

Indent Nos: **(1) 49374, (2) 49368, (3) 49545, (4) 49610, (5) 49632, (6) 49578, (7) 49408, (8) 49396, (9) 49621, (10) 49627, (11) 50055, (12) 49548, (13) 49401, (14) 49380, (15) 49533, (16) 49528, (17) 49372, (18) 49614, (19) 49371, (20) 49379, (21) 49983, (22) 49982, (23) 49980, (24) 49978, (25) 49976, (26) 49974.**

Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only.

Few conditions of the tender :

(1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **08.01.2023 upto 5.30 PM.**
(2) Date of opening of Two Cover Technical bid : **10.01.2023 at 11.30 AM.**
(3) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **12.01.2023 at 11.30 A M.**
(4) Specified time period for completion of works: **Two Cover: 6 months (180 days)**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

DIPR/SMG/No.203/Zenkar/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-2,3/4702,2702/TND/2022-23/3354 **Date: 30.12.2022**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

NON-NBD Works:- Total 6 Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.845.78 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work are Six (6) to Nine (9) Months including monsoon.**

M&R Work:- Total 01 Work, Estimated Cost **Rs.70.45 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Six (6) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam under login for Contractors from **11.01.2023.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **16-00hrs.** on **30.01.2023.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office (Ph.No.08352-277188) or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17.30hrs.** on **27.01.2023.** Other details can be seen in the tender documents. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **23.01.2023** for work costing above 1.00Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division,
Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/716/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, DAISY Rani. D, W/O Y Richard, born on 29–08–1973 R/at No.90, Kodanda Rama Reddy Layout, R. M. Nagar, Bangalore–16, have changed my name to Daisy Richard vide affidavit dated 29–12–2022, Before Notary B. Seshagiri, Bangalore–43.

I, MAHAMAYA Sanjay Murdeshwar, W/o Kartik. G. Yaderi, R/at No.153, Shiva Giri, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, Herohalli, Syndicate Bank Layout, Viswaneedam, Bengaluru-560091, have changed my name to Kavita Kartik Yederi vide affidavit dated 02-01-2023 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gautham Thyagarajan alias Gautham T son of Thyagarajan K R, residing at # I-16, Shriram Sadhana Apartments, M S R Road, Gokula, Mathikere, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560054, changed my name to Rhino Maximus for all purposes in future.

WE, SANTHOSH Basavarajappa Sorba and Deepthi Mahendrakar, residing at No.50, 10th Cross, M R Riches Garden, Phase 2, Kalkere, Bangalore-560043, have changed our minor daugher's name from Aryahi Santhosh to Aryahi Santhosh Sorba, vide affidavit dtd 02.01.2023 sworn before Notary P.G.Unnikrishnan, Bluru

GARMENTS

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GST buoyancy

December's revenues signal some post-festive fervour in the economy

At almost ₹1.5 lakh crore, Goods and Services Tax (GST) inflows in December 2022 signal a recovery of sorts from November, when revenues fell to a three-month low. November 2022 revenues were 10.9% higher than a year ago, but still marked the slowest growth since June 2021. December's revenues were 2.5% higher than November and reflected a 15.2% year-on-year uptick. While the ₹1,49,507 crore GST kitty in December is the third highest since the beginning of the indirect tax regime in July 2017, it may be more noteworthy than previous records. First, as these taxes are linked to economic activity undertaken in November, they indicate that factories and service providers were busier than they were in October, impacted little by post-festival consumer fatigue. Second, on the two other occasions that GST revenues were higher – ₹1.67 lakh crore in April 2022 and almost ₹1.52 lakh crore in October – the numbers were boosted by taxpayers' financial year-end reconciliations and pre-festive spending or stocking up, respectively. This was not the case in December. Arguments that high inflation bolstered these numbers are only partly tenable – headline inflation dipped to an 11-month low of 5.9% in November, services inflation was flat sequentially, and goods inflation was 6.2%, which is high but far lower than previous months. So, if inflation did nudge up revenues, it did not play any more of a role in December than it did in earlier months when price rise was higher.

From what is known so far, the eight core sectors rebounded to grow 5.4% in November from a mere 0.9% in October, when industrial output tanked an alarming 4%. While November's industrial production levels will only be known later this month, the GST revenues indicate that the demand for both goods and services held up. As North Block mandarins enter the last lap of curating the Union Budget, the latest GST print should provide some hope while working out the fiscal glide path and revenue aspirations for the coming year. Not only have GST collections been over ₹1.4 lakh crore for 10 straight months, December's healthy inflows lift up the average monthly intake of 2022-23 to ₹1.49 lakh crore. But there is little room for complacency – any slackening in economic activity due to global headwinds could drag down revenues too. The GST Council, which met briefly last month after a long break but left critical reforms hanging, must be convened soon after the Budget – not just to help sustain revenue inflows, but also to aim to rake in more from a rationalised rate structure which brings all the presently excluded items into the One Nation, One Tax ambit.

Over the borderline

People on either side of a border should not be victims of international conflict

The Government of India is paying special attention to the development of border villages, especially from a security perspective. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on December 29 that borders could be permanently secured only when border villages are populated by patriotic citizens who are concerned for the country. Mr. Shah asked the Border Security Force (BSF) to effectively use the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), announced by the Centre in the 2022 Budget, to promote development and communication in border villages. The scheme is for funding development of "border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure (that) often get left out from the development gains," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said in her Budget speech in 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the scheme signified the government's "holistic approach" to ensure that these villages have all facilities. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed Parliament on March 29, 2022 that plans were afoot for the convergence of existing schemes into the new one; and an implementation framework, fund requirements and other modalities were being finalised. The existing Border Area Development Plan of the MHA covers development of all border regions, and it is unclear how VVP will be different from that.

One year after it was announced, there is little clarity on the details of VVP, including on the question of whether it will cover all border areas or only the northern border with China as mentioned in the Budget. The government has said VVP would cover construction of village infrastructure, housing, tourist centres, road connectivity, provisioning of decentralised renewable energy, direct-to-home access for Doordarshan and educational channels, and support for livelihood generation. There were also plans to open the villages along the China border in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Ladakh for tourists. The MHA recently informed a Parliamentary Standing Committee that the budget provisions for the programme have been sent to the Expenditure Finance Committee for its approval. Holding border areas close to the rest of the country is a dynamic challenge and requires a sensitive approach. Borders divide people of shared ethnic and cultural heritage, who are unmoved by rivalries of nations that animate strategists. They should not be challenged to be the vanguards of patriotism.

When degrees lose their worth

Krishna Kumar

is a former director of NCERT and the editor of the Routledge Handbook of Education in India

A student of law who was keen to start practising in a court decided to do a Master's course instead. Her decision was not based on second thoughts about joining the bar; she wants to do that after completing her Master's degree. She decided to postpone legal practice as she felt that the LLB degree had not given her a sufficient grip on the basics. This, she hopes, she will gain from the Master's course. Another factor guided her decision to pursue a higher degree. If she does not succeed in legal practice, she thought, a higher degree would give her an edge in the competitive exams held for jobs in the field of law.

An educational bazaar

Her decision reminds me of the classic book, *The Diploma Disease*, written by British economist Ronald Dore and first published in 1976. In 2001, a special volume was published to celebrate the continued relevance of Dore's book 25 years later. It is a rare book in that it offers a structural explanation for a widely prevalent phenomenon, namely the urge to gather more and more degrees. Instead of focusing on the behavioural aspect, as most scholars do, Dore links the phenomenon with the devaluation of qualifications. Dore noticed that the desire to accumulate more and more degrees and diplomas was gaining rapid popularity in many countries. He selected three of them in order to examine the phenomenon: Sri Lanka, South Korea and Japan. Although India was not a part of his sample, the insights Dore presented are equally pertinent to India, where their applicability is growing rapidly. Certificates, diplomas and degrees are in great demand in what is literally an educational bazaar.

The driving force of the urge to collect degrees is located both in the education system and in the economy

AFP

Dev Lahiri had chosen this title for his book narrating his experience as a renowned teacher and principal: *The Great Indian School Bazaar*. The title is just as relevant to higher education now, where a vast and varied market of qualifications has grown since the mid-1990s. Its growth feeds on itself, in the sense that the greater the variety of qualifications on offer, the faster grows the demand for them. A young candidate enrolled in one course wants to enrol in other courses. Permission for dual degree admission has further boosted the urge.

The driving force of this urge is located both within and outside the system of education. Internally, the system encourages students to gather additional qualifications by defining course content and its aims narrowly. Known as specialisation, this phenomenon is a response to the mystification of skills as distinct from knowledge. The phrase 'job ready' captures the attraction of sliver thin courses that cut the scope of learning so fine that one certificate can only lead the student to search for the next.

The greater driving force is externally located, i.e. in the economy. Economic growth has not resulted in expansion of satisfying employment in many countries. In India, the scarcity of worthwhile jobs is quite severe in many regions, even in cities, not to mention villages. The fear of joblessness fuels the urge to gain new eligibilities. Candidates for jobs often select the relevant domain of their multiple certifications in order to represent themselves as being suitable for a job. The volatility of the job market also implies that no job can last for long; hence the anxiety to become eligible for as many types of jobs as possible.

Delinking did not happen

In the 1980s, it was believed that delinking degrees from jobs might be a good idea to reduce the pressure on institutions of higher learning. The argument was that if jobs were delinked from formal qualification, it would discourage the young from accumulating certificates and degrees. The idea was reluctantly pursued due to the suspicion that self-educated job seekers might not have reliable qualities. In any case, the pressure to enrol in one course or another remained high. Students knew they could not be choosy, and their parents were also anxious to push their wards to stay enrolled rather than waste their time. Correspondence courses – now called 'open' learning – proliferated. Later, the Internet also enabled the self-learning market. It has, to some extent, boosted self-employment, but the lure of formal jobs has not diminished. In fact, it has maintained remarkably high growth in the coaching market. Competitive exams now attract countless youth to indulge in what Craig Jeffrey, on the basis of his studies in India, has aptly described as the "politics of waiting".

Crisis of standards

Dore's thesis that devaluation of degrees is strongly associated with lowering of standards has proved correct. When a course does not give you what you expected to learn from it, you go for a higher level of the same course. The spiral is extended systemically when institutions face financial starvation, leading to chronic vacancies, dwindled support services and poor annual intake in libraries. Public institutions of higher education have suffered sustained hollowing out over the past three decades. Their inability to maintain standards while being forced to accommodate an increased number of students is reflected in the mass exodus to foreign systems and expensive private institutions. Students from deprived strata can't avail of these options. Just when they had begun to knock at the doors of higher education, its offerings entered into descent mode.

There are, of course, many other ways to explain the fall in standards of teaching and also in the expected diligence of students. Digital technology has made its own contribution to the noticeable changes in student behaviour. On a weekly consultation broadcast of the highly regarded Indira Gandhi National Open University, I heard the following statement one day: "Please read the programme guide carefully. Reading is a good activity for you." That a university has to emphasise the value of reading is a sufficient indicator of the silent crisis that has engulfed the system of education. A plethora of reforms introduced despite the weakening of routines due to the pandemic may not succeed in resolving the basic issues and tendencies that Dore had underlined nearly half a century ago. There is a considerable gap between the discourse of reform and the reality of our higher education system. Unwillingness to acknowledge the persistence of older problems has become a source of further systemic enervation. The nature and choice of reforms can certainly be improved by looking at the residues of past difficulties and at the COVID-19 impact.

The case against state control of Hindu temples

Akshay Nagarajan

is an Advocate at the Supreme Court of India

State management of temples is often justified as a way of ensuring access to temples for worshippers and archakas (priests). Regulating secular activities associated with religious practice can be traced to Article 25(2)(a) of the Constitution. Temple control legislation is purportedly justified by this Article.

Temple control and temple entry

However, the framers of the Constitution, being aware of the temple entry movement, advisedly provided a separate power under Article 25(2)(b) which empowers the state to enact laws "providing for social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions" to "all classes and sections of Hindus". Hence, the issue of regulating secular aspects of religious practice is distinct from providing access to worship. This is why there are separate laws for temple control and temple entry. They co-exist; one does not depend on the other.

Proponents of state management of temples also argue that courts have accorded approval to this practice. Any discussion on this topic will necessarily begin with the *Shirur Mutt* judgment (1954) of the Supreme Court. Speaking for a unanimous bench of seven judges, Justice B.K. Mukherjea substantially obliterated the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Act, 1951, terming the impugned provisions as "extremely drastic" in character. So violent were the provisions against religious faith that the then Advocate General of Madras stated that he "could not support the legality of these provisions". It is left to one's imagination how drastic the provisions of the Act must have been to lead the Advocate General to concede the case before the Supreme Court.

The story does not end here. As a result of the judgment in *Shirur Mutt,* the legislature of the erstwhile Madras State enacted in 1954 an amendment Act with the purpose of removing the defects pointed out by the Supreme Court. Again, the Act was challenged in *Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiar v. Commissioner, H.R.C.E.* (1955) before the Madras High Court. This Act too was struck down as it suffered from the same defects as the original enactment. The Orissa Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1939 also has the distinction of being struck down by the Supreme Court twice – first in *Sri Jagannath v State of Orissa* (1954) and then in *Sadasib Prakash Brahmachari v. The State of Orissa* (1956).

Nothing justifies a state official dictating to a religious functionary how worship is to be conducted

The effect of temple control legislation

It is now appropriate to deal with the grievance of various sections of Hindu society against such laws. Simply put, in the guise of administering Hindu religious endowments, the state is trenching upon religious affairs. Such a colourable exercise of power is writ large in Tamil Nadu where temples cannot even conduct pujas as the state has depleted their income. The large-scale loot and plunder of temple resources at the hands of state officials would put to shame the colonial government. Such misappropriation of funds has been unearthed by temple activists and is now a matter of public record.

As per the HR&CE policy note of 2012-13, Hindu temples own 4,78,545 acres of prime agricultural land; 22,599 buildings; and 33,627 'sites' covering 29 crore sq. ft in area, whose estimated value would be almost ₹10 lakh crore. But the income realised by the Tamil Nadu HR&CE Department is a meagre ₹120 crore per year. This is less than the amount collected from temples as 'administrative fee'. In addition, the HR&CE Department collects hundreds of crores as 'Common Good Fund', though the courts have frowned upon such forcible collection. As per the Department's own admission, almost 47,000 acres of Hindu temple land have been usurped since 1986 under its "watch".

In a scathing indictment of the HR&CE Department, the Madras High Court in a 2021 judgment gave 75 directions covering heritage conservation, safeguarding and realising due income from temple properties, audit, safety of vigrahams, appointment of trustees and formation of tribunals for speedy dispute resolution. Not one of them has been complied with. Meanwhile, the state is silencing temple activists by initiating arbitrary criminal action against them. For instance, an FIR was registered on September 14, 2022 against T.R. Ramesh on false and fictitious grounds. It is no coincidence that he has been spearheading the campaign for accountability from the Tamil Nadu HR&CE for decades by unearthing volumes of data.

The Tamil Nadu HR&CE Department does not even have records of its own executive notifications justifying its management of certain temples. The Madras High Court has lamented on this deplorable state of affairs brought to its notice by temple activists. On May 12, 2022, in a Public Interest Litigation seeking removal of executive officers functioning in 47 temples without any orders of appointment, a Division Bench ordered production of records. The Department has still not produced a single record to the court. Meanwhile, no external audit, as required by law, is being conducted for temples under HR&CE, and there are 1.5 million audit objections pending resolution since 1986.

Temple management and secularism

A long line of judicial precedents, post the 42nd Amendment, emphasise that secularism means the state cannot mix with religion. Whatever brand of secularism you subscribe to, nothing justifies a state official dictating to a religious functionary how worship is to be conducted.

It is fashionable for supporters of temple control laws to question how temples will be handed to the communities. This begs the question of whether something illegal in its original form can become legal over time. The purpose is to involve the community, which has been excluded by the state. The objective is not to replace one bureaucracy with another. The participation of different stakeholders and the building of consensus among them will determine who will take over temples. However, the evils of the state perpetuated in the name of 'secular management' must be remedied first.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Preventing a stampede

The fact that two stampedes have taken place in just a week is unacceptable ("Yet another stampede at TDP event in A.P.," Jan. 2). Such incidents show scant respect for human life. Taking adequate precautions must be made mandatory. If freebies are to be distributed, this should be done in an organised manner. People should be divided into categories and an adequate number of police personnel should be deployed to control them.

Thomas Palocaren
Vellore

A tribute

I am devastated by the passing away of my dear friend R.K. Krishnakumar, affectionately known as KK, in Mumbai ("Tata Group veteran R.K. Krishnakumar passes away in Mumbai," Jan. 2). Just three days ago, I gave him a lowdown on the Carnatic music scene. He was curious about everything and listened more than he spoke, as he always did. He was generous to his friends with his time and influence. KK was a pillar of strength to the Tata Group. He brought dynamism to Tata Global Beverages and Indian Hotels Company. He lent stature to Tata Trusts. There could not have been a better candidate to administer the huge funds available in the Tata Group for providing relief to organisations and individuals in need. KK visited Sabarimala every month till his health permitted. I will miss him.

R.K. Raghavan
Chennai

Checking vote

This is with reference to the editorial "Ayes and nays" (Jan. 2). It says, "With EVMs, the voter has no way to see whether the vote is recorded as it is cast". The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), an additional unit attached to the EVM, prints a small slip of paper that carries the symbol, name and serial number of the candidate for whom the voter voted. This is visible in the viewing window. The LED near the candidate button glows and the EVM system beeps when a vote is cast. VVPAT slips are an additional way of verifying votes. The Election Commission conducts mandatory verification of VVPAT slips of five randomly selected polling stations per Assembly constituency/ Assembly segment of parliamentary constituencies.

Sheyphali B. Sharan
DG Media, ECI

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Towards reducing India's prison footprint

At the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court in November 2022, President Droupadi Murmu shared a snippet of her journey with the audience. She reflected on her visits to prisons across India and the circumstances of those incarcerated. She highlighted that these individuals were often unaware of their fundamental rights and had been incarcerated for prolonged periods for minor offences, while their families, struggling with poverty, were unable to bail them out.

President Murmu emphasised how the judiciary, executive, and legislature must work together to help them, and concluded by poignantly asking: How are we claiming that we are progressing as a nation, if we are still building prisons to address the issue of overcrowding?

In stark contrast, in June last year, Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena directed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to allocate 1.6 lakh square metres of land to Delhi's prison department to construct a district prison complex in Narela. The DDA has received ₹135.79 crore from the prison administration for the land thus far, and is demanding a further payment of ₹29.88 crore.

Officials claim that the prison is to be constructed in two phases, the first for high-risk offenders and the second for undertrials.

Stuti Shah

is a Doctoral candidate at Columbia Law School

Re-thinking architecture

In phase 1, which is expected to be completed by April 2024, a high-security jail is to be built in the complex with a capacity to lodge 250 high-risk prisoners. The prison administration has incorporated stringent security measures in the design such as constructing high walls between cells to prevent inmates from viewing others, and interacting with each other, as well as building office spaces between cells to facilitate surveillance.

French philosopher Michel Foucault has extensively written about how the architecture of prisons is often used as a tool to surveil, torture, and break the souls of inmates. With this prison design, the Delhi prison administration is essentially creating solitary confinement which will have a severe detrimental effect on prisoners' mental health.

Frank Gehry, a renowned architect, offered a semester-long course at the Yale School of Architecture in 2017, on architecture and mass incarceration. As their final project, students were tasked with designing a prison facility to house extraordinarily violent offenders. Their models featured open and communal space, fresh air, and spaces for family visits and therapy. Their versions of prisons looked like university campuses, health and wellness facilities, monasteries, and communal complexes emphasising the need to break away from the traditional conception of prisons as mere warehouses and cages, even for the most violent inmates. The students viewed prisoners and prison staff as their clients, rather than the state bureaucracy, and this impacted their designs.

Defund prisons

Prisons in India are still governed by the Prisons Act, 1894, a colonial legislation which treats prisoners as sub-par citizens, and provides the legal basis for punishment to be retributive, rather than rehabilitative. These laws are also highly casteist, and remain largely unchanged since they were drafted by the British. For example, some jail manuals continue to focus on purity as prescribed by the caste system, and assign work in prison based on the prisoner's caste identity.

Furthermore, Dalits and Adivasis are over-represented in Indian prisons. The National Dalit Movement for Justice and the National Centre for Dalit Human Rights' report 'Criminal Justice in the Shadow of Caste' explains the social, systemic, legal, and political barriers that contribute to this. Legislations such as the Habitual Offenders Act and Beggary Laws allow the police to target them for reported crimes.

The L-G's claim to decongest Delhi's prison complexes by setting up prisons in Narela is misguided. It is helpful to look towards President Murmu's timely and emphatic clarion call at the Constitutional Day speeches, where she insightfully noted that progress is antithetical to setting up prisons, and we must address congestion in prisons in non-carceral ways. These could include releasing unwell or old inmates, reducing penalties, allowing bail at affordable costs, employing anti-carceral ways of holding people accountable for their crimes, and expediting trials.

The primary reason why prisons are overcrowded is because India has not done enough to truly prevent crime. Our approach to crime should be preventive, rather than reactive. Instead of investing thousands of crores in finding "state-of the art" ways to cage and harm people, the L-G should reflect on the soul of India's Constitution which imposes welfare obligations on the state. He could work with the Delhi government to channel public funds towards public goods such as housing, education, and employment, so that people would not be as compelled to, or have as much proclivity to commit crimes.

We must take preventive measures before we realise that we have travelled far down this road, and have subjected several people to unnecessary trauma and confinement. With the warning signs beseeching us, we must amplify President Murmu's message on the need to de-carcerate and stop building more prisons, so that the L-G takes adequate steps in that direction. As the three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice U.U. Lalit recently quoted Oscar Wilde while commuting a death sentence, we must recognise that 'Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.'

> Progress is antithetical to setting up prisons, and we must address congestion in prisons in non-carceral ways

The overtures by the CPI(M) to the IUML

Growing anti-incumbency could be one reason for the reach-out

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind
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Just when the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) was grappling with internal contradictions and struggling to tame the powerful Sunni body, the Samastha Kerala Jem-iyyathul Ulama which the party supports, the recently-elected CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan stirred a hornet's nest by endorsing the secular credentials of the IUML.

The abrupt overtures by the CPI(M) leader to the IUML, a party that the Left parties had always branded as a communal outfit, sent jitters across the two main coalitions in Kerala – the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) led by the Congress and the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), headed by the CPI(M).

The IUML leaders, including the party State president Panakkad Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal, while welcoming the CPI(M) leader's words of appreciation also asserted that the party had no plans to switch loyalties from the UDF to the ruling Left front.

"We are strongly rooted in the UDF," Mr. Thangal categorically stated.

Aware that any reciprocal move by the IUML would leave the UDF in shambles, Congress leaders responded to Mr. Govindan's remarks with caution and a bit of sarcasm. Opposition leader V.D. Satheesan said it was heartening that the CPI(M) had finally realised that the IUML was not a communal outfit. Former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Muraleedharan was more blunt with his remark that the UDF would be considerably

weakened if the IUML opted out.

The CPI, understandably edgy over the prospect of losing the status of the second biggest LDF coalition partner to a newcomer, termed Mr. Govindan's statement as immature and felt that it was not the responsibility of the Left parties to issue a character certificate to the IUML.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), however, views the CPI (M) bid to woo the IUML as a dangerous attempt to divide Kerala society on communal lines.

Political analysts observe that CPI(M) is trying to woo the Muslim community through the IUML as the party knows it is gradually losing popularity in Kerala after coming to power for a second consecutive time.

Mr. Govindan's statement, many believe, was also aimed at sowing the seeds of confusion within the UDF at a time when the IUML had expressed unhappiness with KPCC president K. Sudhakaran's controversial pro-RSS statement.

Besides, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was holding direct discussions with the Samastha leaders on various issues such as Waqf board appointments and the controversial proposal to implement gender neutrality in education.

Though the IUML leadership has so far not responded to the CPI(M)'s gestures, there are indications that a section within the party is craving for a shift in political equations because it feels the IUML is spending time in the wilderness without power at the Centre as well in the State.

For quite some time, the CPI(M) leadership in Kerala has been wooing the communitarian parties, especially since the BJP government led by Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre in 2014. The party seems to have been emboldened to woo the IUML after it won over a sizeable section of the Christian community in Kerala by bringing the Kerala Congress(M) into the LDF fold in 2020, dealing a heavy blow to the UDF in Central Travancore, which was once its political bastion.

With 15 Assembly seats, the IUML is the second largest contingent in the UDF after the Congress with 21 seats.

But the CPI(M) is also wary of upsetting its core voter base by wooing communitarian parties. Political commentators feel that Mr. Govindan had only taken up where former CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan left with his outreach to the IUML.

Incidentally, the IUML leadership appears to be divided on the recent allegations raised against LDF convenor E.P. Jayarajan by his party colleague and CPI(M) State committee member P. Jayarajan. The section in the IUML camp that yearns for a tie-up with the CPI(M) has dismissed the issue as an internal matter of that party.

Whether the IUML leadership takes a historic decision to shift allegiance to the CPI (M)-led LDF will be determined by changes in the political landscape in the State. But that is unlikely to happen until the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

India's toy story is still in the making

The scale of exports by India is still miniscule and about 200 times smaller than that of China's

DATA POINT

Sonikka Loganathan
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic in August 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted that India can become a global toy hub. In July 2021, he rued the fact that about 80% of the toys were imported, with crores of rupees going abroad, calling on people to be "vocal for local toys".

In July 2022, he announced that India's exports of toys surged from ₹300-400 crore to ₹2,600 crore, a boost that "no one could have imagined." Beyond an increase in exports, Mr. Modi also said that imports of toys, which used to be over ₹3,000 crore, has fallen by 70%, signifying a drop in India's reliance on foreign-made toys – especially from China.

One of the major reasons behind the decline was the increase of Basic Customs Duty on import of toys from 20% to 60%. Also, stringent conditions were imposed on the quality of imported toys.

Chart 1 shows India's toy exports country-wise in $ million. The total exports have marginally increased to $363 million in the April to October 2022 period, from $178 million in the same period in 2015. The U.S. was the major reason behind this rise as India's exports to the country increased from $44 million to $144 million. The U.K., Germany, Netherlands and Canada were other major destinations.

Chart 2 shows country-wise imports of toys to India in $ million. China was and is India's major source of toys, though the imports have halved from $300 million to $150 million in recent years. Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Netherlands and the U.S. were other sources but they pale in comparison to China's share.

Mr. Modi's repeated clarion calls during the course of the pandemic came at a time when toy sales were surging globally, given the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions. Global toy exports jumped from $119 billion in 2020 to $158 billion in 2021, an unprecedented 32% increase.

The U.S. was again a major reason behind this rise. From $36 billion in 2020 to $52 billion in 2021, toy imports into the U.S. saw a 44% increase as shown in **chart 3**. While toy imports into Germany, the U.K., France, Japan and Canada too increased, the volume paled in comparison to the United States' imports.

Most of the United States' increased demand in 2021 was fulfilled by China, which maintained its position as the world's biggest exporter. As shown in **chart 4**, China's toy exports increased from $71 billion in 2020 to $101 billion in 2021, far beyond Germany – the world's second largest exporter, exporting $11 billion in 2021.

Charts 3 and 4, when read together, show that the world toy market is mostly the U.S. buying and China selling, with other players forming a small share of both imports and exports.

While it is true that India's dependency on Chinese toys reduced and the former's exports improved in the recent months, the scale of exports is still miniscule and close to 200 times smaller than that of China's.

The move to curb toy imports from China by India will have negligible impact on the former's export volume. India formed only 0.7% of China's toy exports in 2021 and was China's 26th biggest destination for toys.

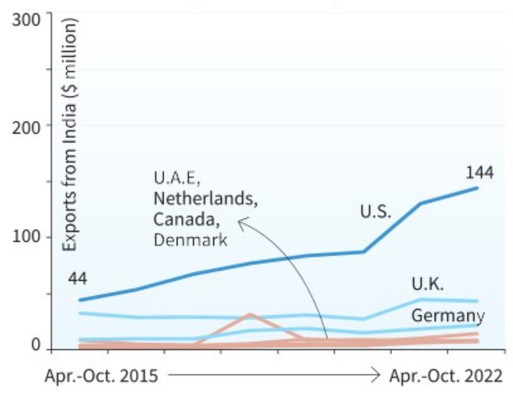
As shown in **table 5**, the U.S. was the biggest destination for China's toys, forming 36% of the exports.

While India's latest surge in toy exports was majorly due to the United States, 77% of the latter's toy needs were met by China in 2021. India only fulfilled 0.5% of the U.S.'s toy needs and was its 9th biggest source as shown in **table 6**.

Global toy trade

Charts 1 and 2 are sourced from Ministry of Commerce and Industry's website. Charts 3, 4 and tables 5, 6 are sourced from UN Comtrade database

Chart 1 | The chart shows India's toy exports country-wise in $ million. Each line corresponds to a country



In the making: A toy maker carves the shape of a woman in Vijayawada. PHOTO: G.N. RAO

Chart 2 | The chart shows country-wise imports of toys to India in $ million. Each line corresponds to a country

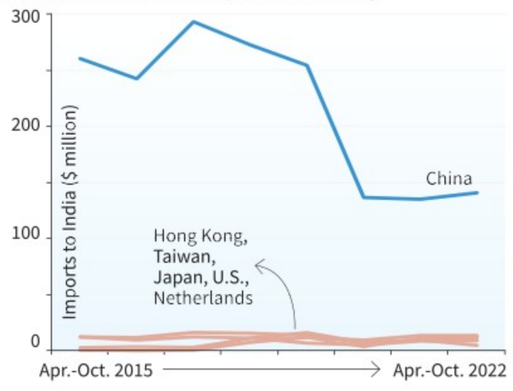


Chart 3 | The chart shows country-wise total imports of toys in $ billion. Each line corresponds to a country

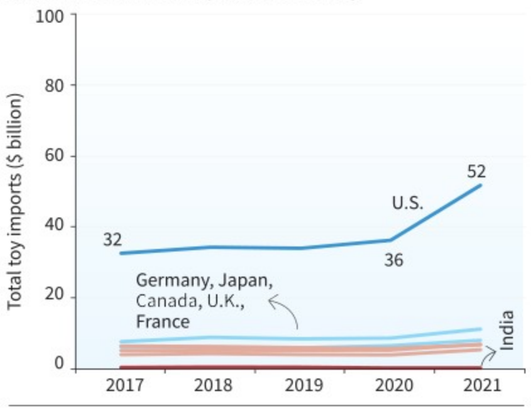


Chart 4 | The chart shows country-wise total exports of toys in $ billion. Each line corresponds to a country

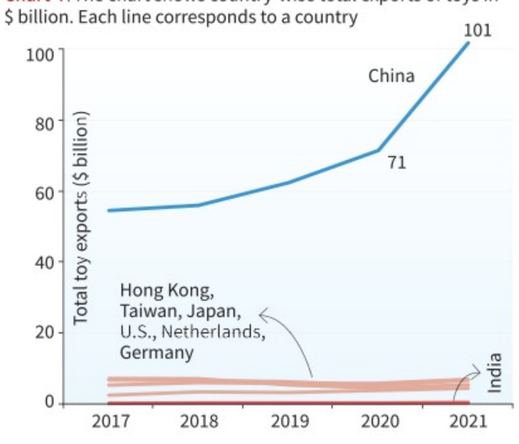


Table 5 | The table shows share of China's toy exports in 2021. 36.4% of China's exports went to the U.S. in 2021

Country	Value ($ bn)	%	Rank
U.S.	37.1	36.4	1
U.K.	5.3	5.2	2
Netherlands	5.1	5.0	3
Japan	5.0	4.9	4
Germany	4.0	3.9	5
India	0.7	0.7	26

Table 6 | The table shows share of U.S.'s toy imports in 2021. 77% of U.S.'s imports were from China in 2021

Country	Value ($ bn)	%	Rank
China	40.4	77.9	1
Other Asia	3.0	5.8	2
Vietnam	2.5	4.8	3
Mexico	1.2	2.4	4
Japan	0.5	1.0	5
India	0.3	0.5	9

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 3, 1973

Funds in 5th plan for Tube Railway urged

Madras, Jan. 2: The Tamil Nadu Government has urged the centre to take immediate steps for the provision of an underground railway line in Madras connecting Ennore and Tiruvanmiyur, the city's northern and southern suburbs. The cost of the 26 km line is estimated at Rs. 180 crore, phased over the next 10 years. It will pass through Manali, Tiruvottiyur, Royapuram, George Town, Central Station area, Triplicane, Mount Road, Mylapore and Adyar. Three State Ministers – Messr K. Anbazhagan, Minister in-charge of Town Planning, S.J. Sadiq Pasha, Works Minister, and K. Rajaram, Minister for Tourism – met the Railway Minister, Mr. T.A. Pai at Raj Bhavan here to-day and presented a memorandum pleading for initiating necessary action in the Fifth Five Year Plan to provide this facility to deal with the city's stupendous traffic problem. They impressed upon the Union Minister the need to take up the project, as the population of the city and suburbs was rapidly growing and would reach 42 lakh in 1981 and 53 lakh in 1991, giving rise to numerous transport and traffic problems. The Ministers requested the Centre to allot Rs. 50 crores under the Fifth Plan for the purpose and see that steps were taken to commence the work without any loss of time. The memorandum said it would not be possible to have a surface railway to serve the main north-south corridor in the city, as the entire area, through which it had to pass, was heavily built up and hence an underground rapid transit system was the only solution. The Metropolitan Transport Team had recommended the provision of an underground mass rapid transit system.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 3, 1923

Blind and deaf education

Bombay: The conference of workers in the cause of blind and deaf re-assembling to-day, passed resolutions requesting the Government to collect and supply statistics of blind and deaf, urging for training of special teachers for them in normal classes at Calcutta and Mysore with a view to establish special schools and also requesting Government's municipal bodies and the Railway Board to give free passes to the blind and deaf and concession to their teachers while travelling in railways for educational purposes.

From Page One

SC finds no flaw in 2016 demonetisation process

Describing Parliament as the "nation in miniature", she said, "Without Parliament, democracy will not thrive." Justice Nagarathna further concluded there was no "meaningful application of mind" by the Central Board to the government's initiative for withdrawing ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes, which formed 86% of the currency in circulation at the time, causing severe financial crunch and socio-economic despair.

She said the Central Board had "hardly 24 hours to consider the proposal" of the Centre to demonetise the notes. The objectives of demonetisation were "noble and well-intentioned", but the process undertaken was bad in law, she added. Nothing, however, can be done to restore the situation to *status quo ante*, but the judgment could act prospectively, she said.

Official records show the Central Board acted merely on "assurances" given by the government that "embarking on the process of demonetisation would result in reducing banknotes in the economy and a switch over to the digitalisation of the economy", Justice Nagarathna observed.

The petitioners, led by senior advocate P. Chidambaram, had contended that the decision-making process was "rushed" and "fatally flawed".

Justice Gavai, however, said the RBI and the Centre had been in consultation with each other for six months prior to the November 8 notification issued under Section 26(2) of the RBI Act.

Meanwhile, Justice Gavai rubbished the petitioners' argument that a hasty decision was taken to demonetise, noting that "such measures undisputedly are required to be taken with utmost confidentiality and speed. If the news of such a measure is leaked out, it is difficult to imagine how disastrous the consequences would be".

Justice Gavai said demonetisation was done for the "proper purposes" of eliminating fake currency, black money and terror financing. He said there was a "reasonable nexus" between the measure of demonetisation and its objectives.

"The Central government is the best judge since it has all the inputs with regard to fake currency, black money, terror financing and drug trafficking. As such, what measure is required to be taken to curb the menaces would be best left to the discretion of the government in consultation with the RBI," the majority opinion said.

Arguments that demonetisation violated citizens' right to property by taking away their money were "without substance", it said. There were reasonable restrictions to the right. Unlike the demonetisation of 1978, when only five days were given to exchange old notes for new, the 2016 demonetisation gave 52 days. On whether demonetisation met its desired objectives was best left to the government, they said.

6 killed as terrorists strike J&K's Rajouri

"The police reached the spot late [on Monday] and the explosion had already taken place. They [militants] will be given a befitting reply," he added.

The minor victims who died in the IED blast were identified as Vihan and Samiksha Sharma. The six deaths sparked protests and a shutdown in Rajouri. Locals accused the administration of failure to sanitise the area after the attack and held a demonstration outside the civil administration's office in Rajouri. Hundreds of protesters raised anti-administration slogans and kept the bodies of the victims on the road, amid a shutdown issued by the Sanatan Dharm Sabha supported by local political and trade bodies. The Islamic Welfare Organisation, the Tehreek Ghulam-e-Mustafa Milaad Committee and the Anjuman Taajran also supported the bandh call.

Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha, who announced an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh for victims, jobs to their family members and ₹1 lakh for the injured, said, "We will investigate this incident. I assure the people that those behind this despicable attack will not go unpunished" Meanwhile, an alert has been sounded in Rajouri.

Manufacturing ends 2022 on a high note

The seasonally-adjusted PMI reading for December 2022 rose to 57.8 from 55.7 in November, reflecting what the firm called 'a robust improvement in the health of the sector that was the best seen since October 2020'. For the October to December quarter, the PMI averaged 56.3, the highest in a year.

Scaling up production levels in December, firms continued to hire more staff for the tenth month in a row but the growth in jobs was the slowest since September. Producers also enhanced input purchases at a 'near-record' pace that 'was the strongest since May 2022', S&P Global reckoned from industry responses.

However, the deepening slowdown in major global destinations for Indian products began to dent new orders from abroad, which grew at the slowest pace in five months. "While some may question the resilience of the Indian manufacturing industry in 2023 amid a deteriorating outlook for the global economy, manufacturers were strongly confident in their ability to lift production from present levels," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Body of woman was dragged for 12 km by car on Delhi roads: police

As protests erupt, Union Home Ministry seeks report from Delhi Police; AAP demands L-G's removal over 'poor handling' of case; Special Commissioner of Police Sagar Preet Hooda says more charges may be added against the five accused

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after a 20-year-old woman was killed in the Sultan Puri area of outer Delhi after her scooter was allegedly hit by a car, the police on Monday said she was dragged for 12 km, from Sultanpuri to Kanjhawala, under the vehicle.

A medical board has been constituted to conduct the post-mortem examination, officials said.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda said fresh charges could be added against the five persons arrested in connection with the case on the basis of the post-mortem report.

The accused have been booked on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, causing death by negligence and criminal conspiracy. "The accused will be taken to the scene of the crime to verify their version of events. The timeline of events will be established on the basis of CCTV footage and digital evidence," Mr. Hooda said.

He said a forensic examination of the vehicle would also be conducted.

Gross oversight: Aam Aadmi Party supporters protest against Sultanpuri incident, outside Delhi L-G Vinay Saxena's residence, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Blood samples of the accused have been collected and sent for medical examination to determine if they were in an inebriated state.

The woman, who worked with an event planning company, was returning from a late-night function when the incident took place. Her mother said the victim was the sole breadwinner in the family. The victim's father passed away eight years ago.

As protests erupted across the national capital, with the victim's family alleging sexual assault, the Union Home Ministry sought a report from the Delhi Police.

Special Commissioner of Police Shalini Singh will conduct a detailed inquiry and submit a report. The report has been sought on the directions of Home Minister Amit Shah, a government official said.

Local residents also staged protests outside the Sultanpuri police station and blocked traffic, demanding justice for the victim. They alleged that the police were treating the incident as an accident case.

The matter also turned into a political slugfest during the day, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) demanding Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's removal over "poor handling" of the case.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj also alleged that one of the accused, Manoj Mittal, was a local BJP leader and that the L-G and the police were trying to protect him.

Shah to visit 11 States to check BJP poll preparedness

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will embark on a political tour of 11 States in January as part of the Lok Sabha *pravaas* programme aimed at the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The programme involves Union Ministers touring a cluster of three or four Lok Sabha constituencies at a time to oversee organisational readiness as well as State-level issues that can be raised.

Starting on January 5, Mr. Shah will start his series of visits with Tripura. In the following days, he will visit States like Manipur, Nagaland, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka. He will end the month with visits to Haryana and Punjab on January 29. The reviews of the programme have seen several Ministers getting pulled up for not completing their quota of organisational work that the party had assigned to them.

Panel formed to 'protect land and jobs' in Ladakh

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

More than two years after Ladakh became a Union Territory, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a high-powered committee headed by Minister of State Nityanand Rai to "ensure protection of land and employment" for the people of Ladakh.

The 17-member committee that includes Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R.K. Mathur will "discuss measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and its strategic importance", an order by MHA said.

Additional measures

The committee will also discuss measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region and issues related to empowerment of Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil.

On August 5, 2019, the former State of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two UTs - J&K and Ladakh, the latter without a legislative Assembly.

'Exploding number' of Indian illegal immigrants came to Austria: Minister

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

2022 witnessed an "exploding number of Indians" who arrived at Austria's borders as illegal immigrants, the Foreign Minister of Austria, Alexander Schallenberg, said on Monday. The Minister made the comment soon after the Indian and the Austrian teams signed a Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement that Mr. Schallenberg described as "most important".

"Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement is of strategic importance for my country, Austria. This is a sign of a very intensified cooperation. Because last year, we experienced the highest number ever of asylum seekers in Austria – over one hundred thousand. And we had exploding numbers of Indians coming illegally via Serbia to Austria," Mr. Schallenberg said.

The Austrian Minister said the number of applications for asylum from Indian citizens in Austria had reached from 600 in 2021 to "suddenly" 18,000 during 2022, and added, "The numbers have now decreased. We have pressured our Serbian friends to align their visa liberalisation policy with the EU policy that they have done, thankfully."

Friendly terms: S Jaishankar (left) with Alexander Schallenberg during a meeting in Vienna on Monday. PTI

"The problem is not immigration; the problem is not migration. To be very clear, we want that. We need that. The problem is illegal immigration and we don't want it. We need immigration controlled by states and not by organised crime and human traffickers," Mr. Schallenberg said, appreciating the contribution of "tens and thousands of [resident] Indians" to Austrian society.

According to the Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Agreement, the Austrian Minister said, the Government of India will undertake to take back the illegal immigrants from India while Austria will ensure ease of movement for "students, scholars and skilled workers" from India.

Commenting on the Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Agreement, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said, "India is a strong votary of legal migration and mobility. Irregular movement not only enhances the vulnerability of the people involved but is inherently exploitative."

'Local people had seen militants ahead of Dangri attack'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Local people reported militant sightings in Rajouri and the intelligence agencies also raised an alarm about a likely *fidayeen* attack days ahead of the Dangri attack, which left six civilians dead in the Pir Panjal Valley.

Sources said several villagers in Upper Dangri and nearby villages in Rajouri reported militant sightings to the local police in December. A woman gave descriptions of the suspected men spotted in forest areas in Rajouri, sources added.

However, the security agencies could not anticipate the likely target of the militants or trace their movement. At least two well-trained militant groups were tipped to be moving around in the upper reaches of the Pir Panjal Valley, comprising Poonch and Rajouri districts last year. Both these districts border Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and have a long Line of Control. Sources said after Sunday's attack, searches have started in Poonch's Mendhar area and the Reasi district police have increased patrols along the border areas of Rajouri.

Army personnel with a sniffer dog conducting searches in Rajouri. PTI

Three explosions were reported in Rajouri's Kotranka and Shahpur last year, leaving four civilians injured. The police claimed to have busted the module behind these blasts and arrested several local people for their role. There were intelligence reports that a few Kashmir-based militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiba were active in Kandi-Budhal range "to revive militancy". There were startling revelations when a wanted Lashkar 'commander', Talib Hussain Shah, turned out to be an in charge of the BJP's social media wing for minorities last year.

Jains fear that a sacred hill will be defiled by tourism plans

Amarnath Tewary
Ishita Mishra

Leaders of many faiths have joined hands to save a hill that the Jain community considers sacred. For over a week now, Jains across Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Delhi, have been organising peaceful protests.

The outcry is against a Jharkhand government decision that could change the demographic of visitors to Sammed Sikharji at *Parasnath Parvat* (hill), Giridih district, taking it from a "place of pilgrimage" to a "religious tourist destination". The protesters demand that the Jharkhand government revoke its decision to promote *Parasnath Parvat* "as a part of eco-tourism or any kind of tourism". They feel this will disrupt the sanctity of the hill dotted with temples.

Sammed Sikharji, or just Sikharji, as it is reverentially known locally, stands 1,350 metres tall, and is one of the most important pilgrimage sites for the Jains. It is believed that 20 of the 24 *Tirthankaras* (enlightened beings) attained moksha (salvation) here. The hill itself is named after Parasnath, the 23rd Tirthankara. Every year thousands of Jain pilgrims from across the world undertake a 27-km-long trek to reach the summit.

Plea to withdraw

Jains have petitioned the Prime Minister, urging him to press the State to withdraw its decision. Additionally, the National Commission for Minorities wrote to the Jharkhand Chief Secretary in December 2022 taking cognisance of the representation from the Jain community to give the hill a "holy status". The Commission is slated to hold a hearing on January 17 to discuss the matter.

Members of the Jain community protesting on the road of the Inner Circle of India Gate in New Delhi on Sunday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The protest by the Jain community members erupted with the news that the Jharkhand government is considering a proposal to amend a 2019 notification. The then BJP government had earmarked Parasnath Hill as a religious tourism spot. They had sent the proposal to the Centre, which also notified the hill as an eco-sensitive zone.

In July 2022, as part of its tourism policy, the Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand government decided to "promote religious tourism" at Parasnath Hills, a government tourism department official told *The Hindu*. They added, "However, nothing has been done yet on the ground and nothing much can be done in terms of infrastructure development, as the area has already been notified as a sanctuary and eco-sensitive zone."

However, Muni Pranam Sagar ji, revered by the Jain community, has said that the Centre and State governments should denotify the Parshwanath Hill circuit as an eco-sensitive zone. "Why eco-tourism zone; why not eco-*thirthsthan* or eco-pilgrimage centre?" asked the Jain Muni while speaking to the media.

Widespread support

A number of leaders have come out in support of the Jain community. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), while extending support to the community, asked the government to desist from making the religious place a "tourism spot" and respect people's sentiments.

AIMIM Chief Asaduddien Owaisi tweeted to extend his support and said that the Jharkhand government must rescind the decision. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor too tweeted that the government should respect the sentiments of the Jain community and declare Sikharji as a religious place.

Please don't misinform our citizens: Law Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday accused the Congress of "misinforming" the people about the Supreme Court's decision on demonetisation, and targeted former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram for his observation that the dissenting verdict in the 4:1 majority decision, was a "slap on the wrist" of the Centre.

"The 'New Rule' for the Congress: One-Judge minority observation is the Supreme Court ruling and four Judges' decision is not a SC decision. They will go back to all SC minority decisions to uphold them as the laws of the land," Mr. Rijiju said, taking a swipe at Mr. Chidambaram.

"My request to Congress: Please do not misinform our citizens," Mr. Rijiju added.

BJP hails Supreme Court verdict on demonetisation

Former Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad says the exercise was done for various valid reasons such as removing fake currency and countering terror-funding and black marketing; slams Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP was very firm in espousing the great commitment of PM that demonetisation is designed to subserve the interest of the poor

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
former Law Minister

The BJP on Monday hailed the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the policy of demonetisation, saying the court had accepted that the government's decision of 2016 was within the ambit of law.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's national headquarters in New Delhi, former Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "The Supreme Court by a majority judgment found the entire decision-making process to be fair and reasonable. The top court said that the government has got the right and discretion to undertake economic policy decisions. Even the judge who gave dissenting judgment said that the policy was well-intentioned."

No flaw in process

The Supreme Court in a 4:1 majority verdict on Monday upheld the government's 2016 decision to demonetise the ₹1,000 and ₹500 denomination notes, saying the decision-making process was not flawed.

There has to be great restraint in matters of economic policy and the court cannot supplant the wisdom of the Executive by a judicial review of its decision, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice S. A. Nazeer, said.

Mr. Prasad asserted that the exercise of demonetisation was done for various valid cases namely removing fake currency, countering terror-funding, black marketing, and so on.

For the benefit of poor

Hitting out at the Opposition, Mr. Prasad said the Congress stirred a storm when demonetisation was implemented. "Rahul Gandhi used to speak regarding this in foreign countries. The motive behind demonetisation was '*Gareeb Kalyan*'. The BJP was very firm in espousing the great commitment of Prime Minister Modi that this (demonetisation) is designed to subserve the interest of the poor and to bring cleanness to our economy," he said.

Further, he said that India saw its transformation into Digital India. "Just in October, India recorded a great harvest of digital transactions worth ₹730 crore amounting to ₹12 lakh crore transactions. We would like to factually emphasise that 2 lakh 38 thousand shelf companies have been shut down," Mr. Prasad said.

SC judgment does not acquit Modi government, say Opposition parties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

People stand in a long queue to withdraw cash days after the demonetisation was announced in November 2016.

The Supreme Court judgment on the pleas challenging the Centre's 2016 demonetisation policy is limited to the issue of the process of decision-making and not with its outcome, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said on Monday.

He noted that it would be entirely misleading to say that the top court had upheld the exercise. The other Opposition parties also concurred with the view, underlining that the top court ruling does not acquit the government.

In a statement, Mr. Ramesh pointed out that the ruling nowhere speaks about the impact of demonetisation "which was a singularly disastrous decision", he added.

"The Supreme Court has only pronounced on whether Section 26(2) of RBI Act, 1934 was correctly applied or not before announcing demonetisation on November 8, 2016. Nothing more, nothing less," Mr. Ramesh said.

In fact, he added, that one of the judges in her dissenting opinion has noted that Parliament should not have been bypassed.

"The verdict has nothing to say on whether the stated objectives of demonetisation were met or not, none of these goals-reducing currency in circulation, moving to a cashless economy, curbing counterfeit currency, ending terrorism and unearthing black money was achieved in significant measure," Mr. Ramesh added.

Trinamool Congress said that though the BJP may rejoice on the majority judgment, it cannot ignore the dissenting opinion.

The Left parties criticised the Centre for bypassing Parliament. "The dissenting opinion maintained that this Section of the RBI Act says that the RBI must recommend to the government to initiate demonetisation," the CPI (M) Polit Bureau noted in a statement.

On the draw

Rahul to hoist National Flag in J&K to mark Yatra's end

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day before the Bharat Jodo Yatra resumes the onward march from Delhi, the Congress on Monday announced that the Yatra will end with Lok Sabha member from Wayanad, Rahul Gandhi, hoisting the National Flag in Srinagar on January 30.

Addressing a joint press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters, party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and AICC general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said the Bharat Jodo Yatra had so far covered 3,122 km from Gandhi Mandapam in Kanyakumari to the Red Fort in Delhi.

Mr. Venugopal also announced that the 85th plenary session of the party, which will take place in Chhattisgarh once the Yatra is over, will be held between February 24 and 26. The plenary will not only endorse Mallikarjun Kharge's presidency of the party but is also likely to pave the way for an election to the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

"The Yatra will continue from Delhi on January 3, Uttar Pradesh from the same day to January 5; Haryana from January 6 to 10; Punjab from January 11 to 20; and Himachal Pradesh on January 19. The Yatra will enter J&K on the evening of January 20 and will end with a flag-hoisting in Srinagar on January 30," Mr. Venugopal said.

Asked if the concerns raised by party leaders over the security of Mr. Gandhi and other *yatris* had been addressed, Mr. Venugopal said the Delhi Police had held a meeting to deal with such concerns on Monday.

He said Mr. Gandhi was not afraid of any security concerns as people were joining him in large numbers. The Yatra has been incident-free so far and would continue to be so, Mr. Venugopal said.

'China's approach to India is like Russia's to Ukraine'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Territory debate: Rahul Gandhi asserted that only India can take on China in terms of economy and production. FILE PHOTO

China is following the same principle with India as Russia has done with Ukraine, Congress leader and Lok Sabha member from Wayanad, Rahul Gandhi, has said in a one-on-one conversation with actor-politician Kamal Haasan, who participated in the Delhi leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

In the conversation, shared by Mr. Gandhi in his YouTube channel on Monday, the Congress leader said the China-India border face-off can be linked to "a weak economy, a confused nation without any vision".

He, however, asserted that only India, and not the West, can take on China in terms of economy and production.

Mr. Gandhi said, "Essentially, what the Russians have done in Ukraine is that they have said we do not want Ukraine to have a strong relationship with the West and they have basically told the Ukrainians that if you will have a strong relationship with the West, we will alter your geography. That is the exact same principle that can be applied to India".

"What the Chinese are saying to us is that be careful with what you are doing, because we will alter your geography. We will enter Ladakh, we will enter Arunachal [Pradesh], and what I can see is them building a platform for that type of an approach," he added.

The Congress leader asserted that the definition of conflict has changed now as one did not fight just on the border but everywhere. "I think our government has completely miscalculated it," he said adding that security in the 21st century needs a holistic and global approach.

"When Indians fight Indians, when the economy does not work, when there is joblessness, our external opponent can take advantage of this situation," the Congress leader noted.

Akhilesh, Mayawati get Yatra invite, thanks Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Top Opposition leaders of Uttar Pradesh – Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati – extended greetings to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which will enter the State on Tuesday and cover a distance of 120 km before crossing over to Haryana on Thursday. In all likelihood, these Opposition leaders will skip the yatra.

Thanking Mr. Gandhi for the invite, four-time U.P. Chief Minister Mayawati wrote on Twitter: "Best wishes for the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and thanks for inviting me to take part in the Yatra."

Meanwhile, SP chief Yadav, in a letter, said, "Thank you for your invitation to 'Bharat Jodo' and congratulations on the success of the 'Bharat Jodo' mission."

RBI saw note ban as chance for financial inclusion: top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

RBI response had a draft plan to carry out demonetisation in a non-disruptive manner

The majority judgment of the Supreme Court on Monday details extensively the documents placed on record by the government to conclude that the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was very much in the loop before recommending the demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes in November 2016.

The documents have been discussed to counter the apprehensions raised by the petitioners that the Central Board did not independently apply its mind to the viability of demonetisation implemented "hastily".

In fact, the judgment said the RBI response also contained a "draft scheme to implement the proposal for demonetisation in a non-disruptive manner with as little inconvenience to the public and business entities as possible... The same was also taken into consideration by the Cabinet for implementation of demonetisation".

Electronic payments

The top court said the Central Board, in its 561st meeting held on November 8, 2016, had held an "elaborate discussion" and found that "the proposed step presents a big opportunity to take the process of financial inclusion further by incentivising the use of electronic modes of payment".

"The Central Board has taken into consideration that the matter had been under discussion between the Central government and the RBI for the last six months," the judgment noted.

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3. **Period of completion** : 04 (Four) Calendar months.
4. **Other details** :

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CAD-4338 OIPR-14003/11/0248/2223

Medical Counselling Committee (MCC)
Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

All the PG NEET eligible candidates who are Registered with MCC are hereby informed that this year i.e 2022 Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) of DGHS conducted Four Online Rounds for PG Seats. However, some M.D/ M.S/ Diploma/ PG DNB and MDS seats of All India Quota/ Central University/ Central Institutes/ Deemed University/ PG DNB Institutes are vacant. The details of the vacant seats are available on MCC website **(www.mcc.nic.in)**.
In larger public interest, the competent authority has decided to conduct a **Special Stray Vacancy Round** for PG Counselling 2022 in an online mode. Candidates should visit MCC website **(www.mcc.nic.in)** for Terms & Conditions/ eligibility and schedule of Special stray vacancy round. Kindly stay in touch with website for latest updates.

NATIONAL ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING CENTRE
COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
(MINISTRY OF COAL, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
Phone No. 040-24046673, Kothapet, HYDERABAD-500060 (T.S.),
Email: hyderabad@cmpfo.gov.in

Commercial space of 5000 sq.ft. (2nd floor) for rent to Government / Semi-Government Organisations of Central and State Government at Kothapet, Hyderabad on CPWD approved Fair Rent Certificate.

Contact : Regional Commissioner, NEDP Centre, CMPFO, Kothapet, Opp. Mahalaxmi Theatre, Hyderabad-500060.

Email : hyderabad@cmpfo.gov.in
OFFICE NO : 040 - 24046673
Mobile No : 9494235227, 9490410698

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-41/16827/2022-23 Date: 02.01.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of Strengthening of bund & other improvement works & Constructing approach road to Kuppur Tank, Tumakuru Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **11.01.2023 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3840/Zen/2022-23

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Phone No.:9448994705 Website: www.cescmysore.org Email:gmpurc@cescmysore.org

No.CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-1)/2022-23/19497 Date: 30-12-2022

e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal Only)

Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation is inviting e-Auction bidding from eligible bidders for the sale and disposal of A1 Conductor on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' in various stores of CESC jurisdiction. The store details are as below:

Sl. No.	Division	Contact No. of Store Officer	Sl. No.	Division	Contact No. of Store Officer
1	N.R.Mohalla	9448994715	10	Sakaleshpura	9480810365
2	V.V.Mohalla	9448994842	11	Holenarasipura	9449598598
3	Nanjangudu	9448994718	12	Channarayapattana	9449598520
4	Hunsur	9449598554	13	Arasikere	9449598544
5	K.R.Nagar	9448283391	14	Mandya	8277889833
6	Madikeri	9449598541	15	Madduru	9449598525
7	Kollegala	9480841185	16	Pandavapura	9449598596
8	Chamarajanagara	9449598542	17	K.R.Pete	8277883811
9	Hassan	9449598597	18	Nagamangala	9480816902

The details of materials, quantity etc., and regarding participation date & time of e-auction can be obtained through e-procurement portal https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **04-01-2023.** For clarification regarding e-portal please contact help desk **080-46010000 / 22631200** or e-mail address **support @eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/- General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/835/2022-23

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016483
Office of the Superintending Engineer (MM&C) Material Management & Contract Wing
Regd. Office : New Power House, Industrial Area, Jodhpur-342003, Ph. 0291-2742223, Fax : 0291-2746539

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Short Term Tender is invited for purchase of 11 KV, 400 Amp. Isolator with Post Insulator without Earth Blade under TN-1844 (UBN JVV2223GLOB00499).
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and also at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
For Electricity Complaints Toll free No. 1800 180 6045

INBRIEF

Second phase of 'Viraasat' sari festival begins today

Around 90 traditional weavers from across the country will exhibit and sell handcrafted varieties of saris at the Handloom Haat at Janpath in New Delhi from Tuesday as part of the second phase of the sari festival, organised by the Union Textile Ministry. Named 'Viraasat', the event, according to the Union Ministry, is to bring renewed focus on the age-old traditions of sari weaving and to improve earnings of the handloom community. Weavers will exhibit and sell handcrafted varieties of saris such as tie and dye, Chikan-embroidered, hand- block saris, Kalamkari-printed, Ajrakh, Kantha and Phulkari saris during the festival.

SP injured, church vandalised in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur

Nearly half-a-dozen policemen, including a District Superintendent of Police, were injured and a church was vandalised after a "protest meeting over alleged religious conversions" called by tribal groups turned violent in Narayanpur of Chhattisgarh on Monday. Narayanpur Collector Ajeet Vasant told *The Hindu* that the meeting was called by the tribal groups to raise "their grievances regarding religious conversions". Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Range) P. Sundarraj said the policemen were injured while trying to prevent an armed mob from vandalising the church on the premises of Vishwa Deepti High School.

'Working towards self-reliance to live-stream SC proceedings'

The Union government on Monday said it was working on a "self-contained, self-reliant ecosystem" to live-stream Supreme Court proceedings even as the top court hit back at a petitioner who claimed the court was not following its own judgment on live streaming. The court asked what modalities could be followed for streaming at a time when the National Informatics Centre was saying it did not have sufficient infrastructure to live-stream without third-party applications. Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati said work was on to build self-reliance.

Gujarat's first woman Chief Secretary passes away

Gujarat's first woman Chief Secretary Dr. Manjula Subramaniam, a 1972 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Gujarat cadre, passed away after a brief illness in Vadodara on Sunday. She served as the first woman Chief Secretary of Gujarat in 2008-09 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of the State. Condoling her death, Prime Minister Modi posted a tweet: "Anguished by the demise of veteran bureaucrat Dr. Manjula Subramaniam *Ji*. She was widely respected for her understanding of policy related issues and action oriented approach. I recall my interactions with her when I was CM. Condolences to her family and friends."

Online games must register with self-regulatory body, say draft rules

Any game that allows wagering on its outcome is effectively a no-go area, says Minister; welcoming the publishing of the draft amendment, All India Gaming Federation says it believes this is first step for comprehensive regulation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Electronics and Information Technology Ministry on Monday proposed an amendment to bring online gaming within the ambit of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The proposal, released for public consultation, requires all online games to register with any self-regulatory body approved by the Ministry.

This model is similar to the rules in place for digital news sites and streaming services under the IT Rules. "Any game that allows or permits wagering on its outcome is effectively a no-go area," Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said. "If you bet on the outcome of the game, it is prohibited."

"It is the SRO [self-regulatory organisation] that will determine what constitutes prohibited wagering," Mr. Chandrasekhar said. "If there is a practice where some foreign betting websites are permitted to advertise on Indian intermediaries, it is certainly our intent that it must not be permitted."

It's not clear if those games that have been recognised in courts as games of skill will continue to be able to operate under this policy. "This [framework] will boost the legitimate domestic online gaming industry, ensuring greater transparency, consumer protection and investor confidence," Trivikraman Thampy, co-founder and co-chief executive officer (CEO) of Games24x7, said in a statement. The firm publishes rummy and fantasy sports games that allow players to stake real money.

The All India Gaming Federation (AIGF), whose members typically offer such games, welcomed the publishing of the draft amendment.

"We believe this is a great first step for comprehensive regulation for online gaming and [it] will hopefully reduce the State-wise regulatory fragmentation that was a big challenge for the industry," its CEO, Roland Landers, said in a statement, alluding to attempts by States such as Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to ban real-money gaming platforms, which require players to risk real money to play.

In response to a query by *The Hindu* on whether AIGF members would continue to be able to offer games that allow wagering on outcomes, Mr. Landers said, "We at AIGF already follow a similar process for our members. However, we will study the rules and standards and reprocess all the members and their games accordingly."

Rules of the game

The draft amendments released by the IT Ministry on online gaming is now open for public consultation

- The proposal aims to bring online gaming within the ambit of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021

- It's not clear if games recognised in courts as games of skill will continue to be able to operate under this policy
- This model is similar to the rules in place for digital news sites and streaming services under the IT Rules

HC rejects Purohit's plea in Malegaon blast case

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday rejected a petition filed by Lieutenant-Colonel Prasad Purohit seeking discharge as an accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast that killed six and injured 101.

A Division Bench of Justices A.S. Gadkari and P.D. Naik was hearing an appeal filed by the accused after the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court rejected his discharge application.

The court said, "If the contention of the appellant that he was directed to perform official duty to gather information regarding 'Abhinav Bharat' is to be accepted then the question remains to be answered that why he did not avert the bomb blast in Malegaon..."

SC lists U.P.'s plea against order on civic polls for Jan. 4

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to list on Wednesday an appeal filed by the Uttar Pradesh government challenging an Allahabad High Court direction to hold urban local body elections in the State without reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud agreed to list the case early after Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for Uttar Pradesh, made an oral mentioning for urgent hearing.

The case raises the fundamental question whether quota for political representation in urban self-government bodies can be equated with reservation in higher education and public employment for social, educational and economic backward classes.

The State government has argued that there was no flaw or illegality in providing reservation to the very same 79 Backward Class communities listed in the U.P. State Public Services (Reservation for SC, ST and OBC) Act, 1994 in respect of seats and offices of chairpersons of local bodies.

ST Commission holds its ground on impact of new rules on Forest Rights Act

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

In a sign of escalating conflict between the government and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) over the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022, panel Chairperson Harsh Chouhan on Monday said its position on the new rules being violative of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 "will be the same" even as the Environment Ministry has dismissed these concerns.

Mr. Chouhan told *The Hindu*, "The commission's stand will be the same. It is the commission's duty to intervene and recommend corrective measures whenever any rules run the risk of violating rights of tribespeople. This we will continue to do."

This comes after Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav wrote to the panel dismissing the concerns flagged by Mr. Chouhan, saying they were "not legally tenable".

Fight for rights: The Environment Ministry dismissed the concerns flagged by the commission, saying they were 'not legally tenable'. AP

Panel's concerns

Flagging concerns about the provision in the new rules that proposes to do away with the consent clause for diversion of forest land for other purposes, the panel had recommended that these rules should be put on hold, in a letter to the Environment Ministry last September.

In response, Mr. Yadav has insisted that the rules were framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and that the NCST's apprehension of these rules being in violation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 "is not legally tenable".

The panel had pointed out that the FCR, 2022 had done away with the clause to mandatorily seek consent of the gram sabhas before the Stage 1 clearance or even after Stage 2 clearance. In such a scenario, project proponents, having received partial clearance, will be pushing the State governments and Union Territory administrations for "diversion at the earliest", which would be "seriously impacting the process of recognition of rights under the FRA".

The commission pointed out that between 2009 and 2018, of the 128 applications for forest diversion for mining, 74 were cleared at the Stage 2 and 46 at the Stage 1 and none of the rejections were based on FRA non-compliance. It added that in a subset of 14 cases (all post 2014), certificates showing completion of FRA process were issued "in violation of ground realities". The commission said the new rules will only increase such violations.

The Minister did not respond to requests for a comment on Mr. Chouhan's remarks.

Need more scope for research on modern Indian history: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday underlined the need for widening the scope of research on modern Indian history to create a better awareness among the people of the country's past.

Mr. Modi also emphasised the need for institutions in the country in general, to create their well-audited, researched and recorded memory for the benefit of the present as well as future generations. He was presiding over the annual general meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

The PM said there was a need for widening the scope of research on modern Indian history both in terms of individuals, institutions and themes, so as to create better awareness among the people of India's past.

Expressing satisfaction over the design and content of 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya' (Prime Minister's Museum), the Prime Minister underlined that the museum was "truly objective and nation-centric, not person-centric, and that it suffers neither from undue influence nor from unwarranted absence of any required facts".

The PM said the Museum on Prime Ministers was 'truly objective and nation-centric'

Need to popularise

He said that the museum needed to be made popular among the youth by organising competitions about its content in colleges and universities across the country. This would take the message of the 'Sangrahalaya' highlighting the achievements and contributions of all the Prime Ministers of India to the people, he said.

He expressed hope that in the near future the museum would emerge as a central attraction for visitors to Delhi.

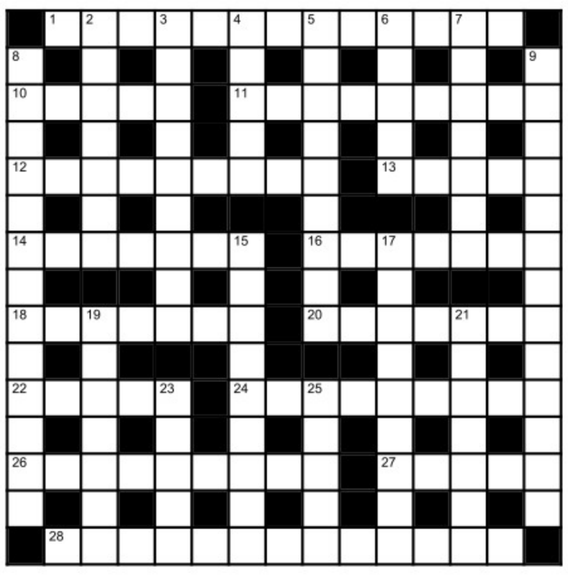
The PM also asked the academic and cultural institutions across the country to produce well-researched knowledge about the contributions of the founder of Arya Samaj Swami Dayanand Saraswati, whose 200th birth anniversary was coming up in 2024.

TH CROSSWORD + 13753

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Perhaps begin knocking it back - makes one get knocked out (5,8)
10 Inept fellow had wee bit to drink (5)
11 Key supports for fast bowling (9)
12 Being a father seeking parity with ten others (9)
13 Ruler with a cat, say (5)
14 A long story about a new dog (7)
16 Make enumerator delete one printing mistake (7)
18 Function is to store peeled fruit in wine (7)
20 Another 16 on protecting harbour during bad weather (7)
22 French philosopher brings back some spice (5)
24 I see actor play around with highly specialized knowledge (9)
26 Whisper secrets regularly, coverage is incomplete (9)
27 Male deer cross over lake (5)
28 Connected pair becomes clumsy (8-5)

Down

2 Train that is in motion or inaction? (7)
3 A breeding ground for material (9)
4 Place within where some Dahlia buds spring up (5)
5 Want to travel with a skin condition? (5,4)
6 In Bangkok, a shack serving porridge (5)
7 Dined at home, it's the cleanest (7)
8 After a fall only place for a child that's fat (7,6)
9 Tried working out in the head - in a way it could be harmful (13)
15 Nimble around those cutting fruit (9)
17 Dictator on interacting with the media (9)
19 Clean chit covers working maid moving from place to place (7)
21 Greek character on accepting something very small (7)
23 Tonic or gin sourced from Pembrockshire, say (5)
25 Open closet in two parts (5)

SUDOKU

4					9			
			3	8	5			
5			4			3		
8					1	7		
3		6	8		7	4		2
		4	5					1
		2			4			5
			9	1	6			
			2					6

No.SS5668 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	C	E		S		D		A		U		S		
H	U	F		F		Q	U	A	D	R	A	N	G	L	E
	R		F		U		T		R		S		A	
E	D	M	U	R	E			A	P	O	T	H	E	G	M
	C		S		A				G		O			
T	H	R	I	L	L	E	D		A	B	D	U	C	T
	E		O				I		N				O	
L	E	A	N		D	E	L	F	T		M	I	M	E
	S				U		L				I		P	
T	E	C	H	N	O			Y	O	U	R	S	E	L	F
			U		D				N		C		I	
G	E	R	M	C	E	L	L		P	L	A	S	M	A
	A		A		N		I		L		R		E	
A	R	T	N	O	U	V	E	A	U		R	A	N	T
	N		E		M		D		G		Y		T	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	3	4	2	8	7	6	5
4	7	5	3	6	1	8	2	9
6	2	8	5	7	9	3	4	1
2	8	9	6	3	5	4	1	7
5	3	4	2	1	7	9	8	6
1	6	7	9	8	4	5	3	2
7	4	2	1	5	3	6	9	8
3	5	1	8	9	6	2	7	4
8	9	6	7	4	2	1	5	3

FAITH

A poor but staunch devotee

God exercises no discrimination between poor and rich and He sees no caste, creed or religion among His devotees. Transcending all barriers He will help them and shower His blessings infinitely. Janabhai, a destitute girl was worshipping Lord Panduranga every day. Her stay at the house of Namadeva – another great devotee – motivated her more towards the Lord. She prayed that He is her father, mother, friend, relative and in short everything. It is said Panduranga Himself had written the compositions of Janabhai. Her songs are very melodious, melting and full of feelings called as Janabhai Abhangam.

One day the house of Namadeva was about to fall due to heavy rain but Panduranga was holding the wall on his shoulders in the guise of an old person. When Janabhai asked why should you take such a great pain, Lord replied that when my devotees are doing immense service to me, should I not reciprocate?

She felt execrated when she was falsely fabricated for the valuables missing in the temple of Panduranga. Janabhai told that the flow of the course of the river may not be straight or clear but its water will be clean and crystal. Flowers may be tethered disorderly but will not fall short of fragrance.

The appearance of a cow may be asymmetrical but its milk is pure and fine. A bow may be curved in shape but the arrow released from it is straight. I may be wrong but you and your divine names cannot be. When she was about to be executed in an impaling stake, it burnt off, changed into a garland and bedecked her, Smt. Visaka Hari said in a discourse.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Iran issues warning on mandatory headscarf even in cars, says report

REUTERS

The Iranian Police have resumed warnings that women must wear headscarves even in cars, the media reported on Monday, as unrest continues following the death of Mahsa Amini. Fars news agency quoted a police officer saying the "new stage" of the Nazer-1 programme — "surveillance" in Persian — was being rolled out. AFP

TRIBUTE

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's body lies in state at Vatican

REUTERS

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's body, his head resting on a pair of crimson pillows, lay in state in St. Peter's Basilica on Monday as thousands of people filed by to pay tribute to the pontiff who shocked the world by retiring a decade ago. His body was dressed with a miter, the peaked headgear of a bishop, and a red cloak. AP

SRI LANKA

Gotabaya believed to have applied for restoration of U.S. citizenship

REUTERS

Sri Lanka's ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has applied for restoration of his U.S. citizenship after he failed to get asylum in any country. However, the U.S. government is yet to consider the request, *The Sunday Times* newspaper reported. The former President and his immediate family are in Dubai on a holiday. PTI

MANILA

Casualties from floods, landslips across Philippines rises to 51

AP

The death toll from recent floods and landslips across the Philippines has risen to 51, officials said on Monday. The number of fatalities could rise further as rescuers search for 19 people still missing more than a week after heavy rain pounded central and southern regions, according to the national disaster agency. AFP

Ukrainian rocket strike kills 63 Russian troops in Donetsk

Kyiv's forces fired six rockets from a U.S.-supplied HIMARS launch system and two of them were shot down; Russia deployed multiple exploding drones in another nighttime attack on Ukraine

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Monday that 63 Russian soldiers have been killed by a Ukrainian strike on a facility in the eastern Donetsk region where military personnel was stationed. The Ukrainian forces fired six rockets from a HIMARS launch system and two of them were shot down, said the statement.

The strike, using a U.S.-supplied precision weapon that has proven critical in enabling Ukrainian forces to hit key targets, delivered a new setback for Russia which in recent months has reeled from a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

The Ukrainian military has not directly confirmed the strike, but tacitly acknowledged it. The Strategic Communications Directorate of Ukraine's Armed Forces claimed on Sunday that some 400 mobilised Russian soldiers were killed in a vocational school building in Makiivka and about 300 more were wounded. That claim could not be independently verified. The Russian statement said the strike occurred "in the area of Makiivka" and didn't mention the vocational school.

In the ruins: A resident walking on an empty street near destroyed vehicles in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region. REUTERS

No let-up

Meanwhile, Russia deployed multiple exploding drones in another nighttime attack on Ukraine, officials said on Monday, as the Kremlin signalled no let-up in its strategy of using bombardments to target the country's energy infrastructure and wear down Ukrainian resistance to its invasion.

The barrage was the latest in a series of relentless year-end attacks, including one that killed three civilians on New Year's Eve. On Monday, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said 40 drones "headed for Kyiv" overnight. All of them were destroyed, according to air defence forces. Mr. Klitschko said 22 drones were destroyed over Kyiv, three in the outlying Kyiv region and 15 over neighbouring provinces.

Energy infrastructure facilities were damaged as the result of the attack and an explosion occurred in one city district, the Mayor said. It wasn't immediately clear whether that was caused by drones or other munitions. A wounded 19-year-old man was hospitalised, Mr. Klitschko added, and emergency power outages were under way. In the outlying Kyiv region a "critical infrastructure object" and residential buildings were hit, Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba said.

'Energy terror'

Russia has carried out airstrikes on Ukrainian power and water supplies almost weekly since October. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Russia of "energy terrorism" as the aerial bombardments have left many people without heat amid freezing temperatures.

Moscow's full-scale invasion on February 24 has gone awry, putting pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin as his ground forces struggle to hold ground and advance.

Russia is observing public holidays through January 8. Drones, missiles and artillery shells launched by Russian forces also struck areas across Ukraine.

Israel kills two Palestinians in West Bank, says Ministry

Agence France-Presse
KAFR DAN

The Israeli Army killed two Palestinians in a West Bank raid on Monday as it demolished the homes of two Palestinians accused of killing an Israeli soldier, Palestinian officials said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry announced the deaths of "Mohammad Samer Hoshieh, 22, after being shot in the chest, and Fuad Mohammad Abed, 25, after being shot in the abdomen and thigh" during a raid near Jenin.

The Israeli soldiers had entered the village of Kafr Dan "to demolish the residences of the assailants who were involved in the shooting adjacent to the Gilboa Crossing, in which Major Bar Falah was killed," the military said.

Runways closed for hours after Israel strikes Syrian capital's airport; four killed

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israeli missile strikes on the Syrian capital's airport on Monday killed four people including two soldiers and closed the runways for several hours, a rights monitor said.

This is the second time in less than seven months that Damascus International Airport – where Iranian-backed armed groups and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters are present – has been hit by Israel.

The attack around 2:00 a.m. put the airport out of service until 9:00 a.m., Syria's State news agency *SANA* reported.

Israel carried out the strike with "barrages of missiles targeting Damascus International Airport and its surroundings", a military source told *SANA*, which reported that two Syrian soldiers were killed and two others wounded.

Israeli soldiers transporting ammunitions. AFP

But the Britain-based monitoring group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a wide network of sources on the ground in Syria, said "four fighters including two Syrian soldiers were killed". The missiles also hit "positions for Hezbollah and pro-Iranian groups inside the airport and its surroundings, including a weapons warehouse", said Rami Abdul Rahman, head of the Observatory.

Flights later resumed after repairs of "the damage caused by Israeli aggression", Syria's Transport Ministry said in a statement. "Air traffic has returned after we restored work on one of the runways," it added. Since civil war broke out in Syria in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes against its neighbour, targeting government troops as well as allied Iran-backed forces.

The Israeli Army has repeatedly said it will not allow its archfoe Iran to gain a foothold in Syria.

Willing to work at normalising U.S. ties: Venezuela President

Agence France-Presse
CARACAS

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that he is willing to work towards normalising relations with the United States, despite the continued sanctions crippling his country.

Mr. Maduro's remarks come days after the South American country's Opposition voted to dissolve an "interim government" led by Juan Guaido, who had been recognized by many countries as Venezuela's legitimate leader following disputed 2018 elections.

"Venezuela is ready, totally ready, to take steps towards a process of normalization of diplomatic, consular and political relations with the current administration of the U.S. and with administrations to come," Mr. Maduro said in an interview broadcast on State television.

Nicolas Maduro

Sri Lanka freezes govt. recruitment in fresh austerity drive

Agence France-Presse
COLOMBO

The IMF has asked Colombo to trim its 1.5 million strong public service and sharply raise taxes

Sri Lanka began a fresh austerity drive on Monday, freezing the government recruitment as new taxes and higher electricity prices kicked in with authorities trying to secure an IMF bailout. The island nation needs to achieve debt sustainability as a precondition to a $2.9 billion bailout from the Washington-based lender after it defaulted in April as its economy went into crisis.

The IMF has also asked Colombo to trim its 1.5 million strong public service, sharply raise taxes and sell off loss-making State enterprises. A record 20,000 civil servants retired at the end of December after President Ranil Wickremesinghe reduced their retirement age from 65 to 60. They will not be replaced, the Ministry said.

Doubled personal income and corporate taxes kicked in on New Year's Day to shore up state revenue, while electricity prices went up 65% after a 75% tariff increase in August.

China's air incursions into Taiwan doubled

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

China's warplane incursions into Taiwan's air defence zone nearly doubled in 2022, with a surge in fighter jet and bomber sorties as Beijing intensified threats towards the island democracy.

Self-ruled Taiwan lives under constant threat of invasion. Communist Party rulers claim the island as part of China's territory and have vowed to seize it one day. Relations have been icy for years under President Xi Jinping, China's most assertive leader in a generation.

But 2022 saw a deeper deterioration, as Mr. Xi's military ramped up incursions and launched the largest war games in decades to protest against a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in August.

China sent 1,727 planes into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) in 2022, according to an *AFP* database based on daily updates released by Taipei's Defence Ministry. That compares with around 960 incursions in 2021 and 380 in 2020.

Fighter jet sorties more than doubled from 538 in 2021 to 1,241 while incursions by bombers, including the nuclear-capable H6, went from 60 to 101. Last year also witnessed the first incursions by drones, with all 71 reported by Taiwan's military coming after Ms. Pelosi's visit.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that my client **Mr. UTTAM SINGH** S/o Mr. Lal Singh, residing at No.251, 3rd Main 4th Cross, Bull Temple Road, Bangalore-560 019 intended to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule from **Mr. M. MURALI** S/o Mr. M. Krishna Murthi, Residing at No.25, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, 4th Main Road, Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru-560027. If any person/ entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the said property or any part, thereof, such a person submit his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be deemed that there are no claims, right, title, interest and objections and my client shall proceed with the purchase of the said property from the owner.

::SCHEDULE PROPERTY::

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Vacant **Site No.274/14A,** (Old No.274/14 earlier to that No.274) Nataraja Compound, Karithimmanahally, Mysore Cross Road, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560 026, preset **BBMP Municipal No.274/14A, PID No.41-1-274/14A,** measuring East to West 43.6' feet on the Northern Side and 41.0' feet on the Southern side and North to South 30 feet totally measuring to an extent of 1269 square feet, coming under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, Gali Anajenya Swamy Temple Ward No.157 and bounded on::

EAST BY : Twelve Feet Road; (Mysore Cross Road), **WEST BY :** Property belonging to Smt. Menaka and Thangammal; **NORTH BY :** Portion of Premises bearing No.274, New No.274/13 belonging to Jayalakshmamma; **SOUTH BY :** Part of Premises bearing No.274, New No.274/10 belonging to Y.V. Harikrishna and Y.V. Sarangapani;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-500 020.
Contact : 9740718436

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Smt. H. PAVITHRA,** D/o. Smt. B. Geetha Devi, aged about 33 years, residing at No. 26, 2nd D Cross, 3rd Block, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560072, (Aadhar No. 3395 2474 0603). Anybody has got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within **7 days** from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL the vacant residential immovable property bearing **No. 29,** in the layout formed by the BEML Employees Co-operative Society Ltd., Bangalore in 10th stage of Sy. No. 22/4, 22/6, 22/7 (Re. Sy. No. 45 & 46) and 48 situated at **Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru,** presently within the administrative jurisdiction of BDA having khata No. BDA/R.O(S)/BEML/29/16-17 & measuring East to West (69+68.6)/2 feet and North to South 40 Feet., in all measuring **2750 Sq. Feet.,**
And BOUNDED ON:
EAST BY : Road.
WEST BY : Site No. 2.
NORTH BY : Site No. 30.
SOUTH BY : Site No. 28.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-61.
Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

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Certified Project Management Professional - PMP®

Date : 21st, 22nd, 28th & 29th Jan. 2023 **Time :** 9.00 a.m. to 6.30. p.m.

Contents : Introduction to PMI AND PMP, Project Management Framework , Environment in Projects Operate, Role of Project Manager Project Integration Management, Project Scope Management, Network Models (CPM /PERT), Project Schedule Management, Project Cost Management, Project Quality Management, Project Resource Management, Project communications Management, Project Risk Management, Project Procurement Management, Project Stakeholder Management & PMI Code of Ethics, Agile Methodologies and Roadmap to PMP 2021 Global Certification Exam with 35 PDU

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GOVT OF INDIA CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE(TR)/BZ/SEE(O)/AEE-4/19841 Dt: 31.12.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites bid against Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/TR/BZ/ C-Type Wedge Connectors-CEP-103/2022-23 for Tender for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of **C-Type Wedge Connectors** suitable for different sizes required for replacement of age old bolted type connectors at various 220/66kV Sub-stations in Somanahalli TL&SS Division coming under Transmission Zone, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into e-Procurement website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on **or after 10.01.2023.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineering (Electy)
Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru-09.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, KOPPAL
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, KOPPAL
NO.RWS/Dn/KPL/JJM/2022-23/1607 Date:30.12.2022

E-PROCURMENT NOTIFICATION
Double Cover System (Second Call)

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & sanitation Division, Koppal Invites e-Tender for JJM MVS DBOT Work The eligible bidders are requested to submit the Bid in Double Cover System through e-procurement mode through portol http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

General Information: 1) Contractor should submit the Tender Bid Documents through Online Only. 2) All Documents Should be Scanned and Upload during the period of Applying Tender through Online Only. 3) EMD Amount Should be Submitted Through Online Only. 4) Two Cover Tender Called.

If any More Information Contractor should Contact this office or wide email id:eerwsskpl@gmail.com in Office Hours and Tenders will be Download from 30/12/2022

Tender Processing Fee : As Per E-Procurement. Tender Period : 18 Months. If Any Quarries / Downloading Date **: 04/01/2023 Time: 16:00 Hours.** Tender Accepting Last Date and Time **: 09/01/2023 Date:16:00 Hours.** Tehnical Bid Openng Date and Time **: 10/01/2023 Date:17:00 Hours.** Financial Bid Opening after approval of the technical bid from the Competent Authority **16/01/2023 or After Obtaining the Technical Bid Approval from the Competent Authority**

The Contractors should produce the Original Documents within 8 days from the open of the tender. If failed such Contractor candidature will not be considered.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
R.D.W & S .Division, Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/540/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients intend to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: **(1) Mrs.Zaibunnisa** W/o Mr.Syed Mohammed Bokhari, **(2) Mrs.Naveeda Naaz, (3) Mr.Syed Younus Bokhari, (4) Mr.Syed Anis Bokhari,** No.2 to 4 are children of late Mrs.Azzezunnisa and **(5) Mr.Syed Aamir Bukhari** S/o late Mrs.Sayeeda Taheera Talath, all are residing in the Schedule property.

Apart from the said Owners, if any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.13** (Old No.8/1), PID No.48-4-13, measuring East to West (52+50)/2 ft and North to South 38 ft, with an old building thereon, situated at 3rd Cross, H.Siddaiah Road, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Private Property
West by : Road
North by : Private Property
South by : Private Property.

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

INBRIEF

Tarun Garg elevated as Hyundai Motor India's COO

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. has elevated two of its top management team members. Tarun Garg, Director (Sales, Marketing & Service) has been elevated as chief operating officer (COO) overseeing sales, marketing, service and product strategy. Gopala Krishnan C.S., vice-president (Production) has been elevated as chief manufacturing officer overseeing production, quality management and supply chain. They continue as whole-time directors, the firm added.

Bharat Forge unit to acquire Indo Shell's SEZ in Tamil Nadu

Bharat Forge Ltd. on Monday announced that JS Auto Cast Foundry India Private Ltd., a step-down subsidiary, has entered into a business transfer agreement with Indo Shell Mould Ltd. (ISML) for acquiring their SEZ Unit at SIPCOT, Erode in Tamil Nadu, for an unspecified amount. "The SEZ unit with a capacity of 42,000 MTPA, will operate as the third manufacturing unit of JS Auto," Bharat Forge said. "This takes the capacity at JS Auto to 1,42,000 MTPA."

Shriram Finance raises FD interest rates by up to 30 bps

Shriram Finance Ltd. (SFL) has raised interest rates on fixed deposits (FDs), across tenures, by up to 30 basis points. Customers can earn up to 9.36% and an additional 0.25% would be paid on all renewals, SFL said in a statement. Customers opting for 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-year tenures would be paid 7.3% (7%), 7.75% (7.5%), 8.15% (8.05%), 8.25% (8.2%) and 8.45% (8.3%), respectively. Senior citizens would receive an additional 0.5%.

IMF MD Georgieva warns that global economy faces tougher year in 2023

World's three main economies, U.S., China and EU, are slowing simultaneously, says Fund chief; she cautions that the Chinese government's approach to reopening country's economy will likely impact regional, global growth negatively

Reuters

For much of the global economy, 2023 is going to be a tough year as the main engines of global growth, the United States, Europe and China, all experience weakening activity, the head of the International Monetary Fund said on Sunday.

The new year is going to be "tougher than the year we leave behind," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on CBS's 'Face the Nation'.

"Why? Because the three main economies, the U.S., EU and China, are all slowing down simultaneously," she said.

Tough times: China's growth in 2022 is likely to be at or below global growth, says IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva. AP

In October, the IMF cut its outlook for global economic growth in 2023, reflecting the continuing drag from the war in Ukraine as well as inflation pressures and the high interest rates engineered by central banks such as the U.S. Federal Reserve aimed at taming price pressures.

Since then, China has scrapped its zero-COVID policy and embarked on a chaotic reopening of its economy, though consumers there remain wary as coronavirus cases surge. In his first public comments since the change in policy, President Xi Jinping on Saturday called for more effort and unity as China enters a "new phase".

"For the first time in 40 years, China's growth in 2022 is likely to be at or below global growth," Ms. Georgieva said.

Moreover, a "bushfire" of expected COVID infections in the months ahead are likely to further hit its economy and drag on both regional and global growth, she added.

"For the next couple of months, it would be tough for China, and the impact on Chinese growth would be negative, the impact on the region will be negative, the impact on global growth will be negative," the IMF chief said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,168	0.54
US Dollar	82.78	-0.21
Gold	55,397	0.34
Brent oil	----	----

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3841.20	-17.15
Adani Ports	822.30	4.20
Apollo Hosp	4454.35	-23.25
Asian Paints	3047.25	-40.65
Axis Bank	941.60	7.85
Bajaj Auto	3573.95	-42.10
Bajaj Finserv	1552.50	4.65
Bajaj Finance	6553.75	-21.45
Bharti Airtel	813.50	7.40
BPCL	333.85	3.35
Britannia Ind	4292.15	-15.30
Cipla	1070.95	-5.00
Coal India	224.75	-0.30
Divis Lab	3372.65	-40.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4235.05	-2.50
Eicher Motors	3228.85	1.10
Grasim Ind	1731.30	7.80
HCL Tech	1039.45	0.15
HDFC	2652.40	14.80
HDFC Bank	1628.70	0.55
HDFC Life	570.30	4.05
Hero MotoCorp	2715.90	-22.95
Hindalco	487.05	13.70
Hind Unilever	2558.40	-2.65
ICICI Bank	902.45	11.60
IndusInd Bank	1226.35	6.25
Infosys	1524.00	15.80
ITC	332.85	1.30
JSW Steel	775.30	7.25
Kotak Bank	1825.05	-2.20
L&T	2089.45	3.65
M&M	1262.85	13.65
Maruti Suzuki	8403.30	8.70
NestleIndia	19561.55	-44.45
NTPC	168.00	1.55
ONGC	150.45	3.70
PowerGrid Corp	215.05	1.35
Reliance Ind	2575.90	28.70
SBI Life	1240.05	8.75
State Bank	612.20	-1.50
Sun Pharma	997.00	-4.40
TataConsumerProduct	762.30	-4.65
Tata Motors	394.80	6.85
Tata Steel	119.25	6.60
TCS	3261.45	4.75
Tech Mahindra	1009.50	-6.90
Titan	2565.75	-31.75
UltraTech Cement	7017.95	58.90
UPL	722.00	5.85
Wipro	393.05	0.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 02

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.54	82.86
Euro	88.18	88.53
British Pound	99.47	99.89
Japanese Yen (100)	63.09	63.35
Chinese Yuan	11.96	12.01
Swiss Franc	89.26	89.75
Singapore Dollar	61.48	61.74
Canadian Dollar	60.83	61.10
Malaysian Ringitt	18.73	18.83
Australian Dollar	56.09	56.32

Source:Indian Bank

RBI keeps SBI, ICICI, HDFC as 'systemically important'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The RBI has again tagged the State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as domestic systemically important banks.

While ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank, placed in bucket 1, need to make a provision of 0.20% for additional Common Equity Tier 1 as percentage of Risk Weighted Assets, it would be 0.60% in the case of SBI placed in bucket 3.

UV sales rose in December, demand for entry-level cars remained muted

Reuters
BENGALURU

The commercial vehicle segment reported a double-digit growth during the month

India's top automakers in December reported a double-digit rise in the sale of the more expensive utility vehicles (UVs), while entry-level cars saw muted demand despite discounts.

Auto sales are keenly watched as they are among the key indicators for assessing private consumption, which has more than 50% weightage in calculating the country's economic growth.

UV sales rose 22.3% at Maruti Suzuki and 62.2% at Mahindra and Mahindra. UVs have grown more popular among buyers this year, almost matching production volumes of entry-level cars and sedans, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

"Discounts have been higher in the entry-level because their demand has been relatively weaker. There is also high inventory," said Jay Kale, senior VP, Elara Securities.

While retail inflation eased below the RBI's upper tolerance level for the first time this year in November, latest unemployment data showed joblessness rose to a 16-month high. "The price hikes that auto companies have done is a huge jump for buyers in lower-to-middle income brackets," said Mansi Lall, research analyst, Prabhudas Lilladher.

Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest bikemaker, reported a marginal fall in sales, while Bajaj Auto's two-wheeler sales dropped 22%. Sales of TVS Motor Co.'s two-wheelers also fell 3.3%.

Tractors sales, which indicate demand in rural economy, were up by 27.2% at Mahindra and 18.7% at Escorts Kubota.

Farmers said to hold back cotton stocks as prices fluctuate

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

With prices fluctuating, cotton farmers are reportedly holding back stocks with daily market arrivals remaining lower than the last cotton season.

Prices (Shankar - 6 variety) slid to ₹56,000 a candy last week and recovered to ₹60,000 on Monday.

"Farmers are not selling cotton," said Atul Ganatra, President of Cotton Association of India. "Arrivals between October 1 and December 31, were nearly 82 lakh bales against 130 lakh bales in the same period the previous season."

"Prices were exceptionally high the previous season, and so farmers were not bringing cotton to the market, waiting for higher prices," said Indian Cotton Federation Secretary Nishant Asher.

'Coffee export rose almost 2% to 4 lakh tonne in 2022'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Coffee exports from India, Asia's third-largest producer-exporter, rose 1.66% to four lakh tonne in 2022 on a rise in instant coffee exports and re-exports, the Coffee Board said.

Exports of instant coffee rose 16.73% to 35,810 tonnes from 29,819 tonnes in the year-earlier period.

Production is pegged higher at 3,93,400 tonnes for 2022-23 crop year (October-September) against last year's final output of 3,42,000 tonne.

NMDC lifts fines' price by ₹500/tonne, iron ore lump by ₹200

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Mining major NMDC has increased the price of iron ore lump by ₹200 a tonne and that of fines by ₹500 for the same quantity with effect from January 1.

The new price is ₹4,300 for lump ore and ₹3,410 for fines, India's largest iron ore producer said in a filing with the stock exchange on Monday. During the previous revision on November 30 it had increased prices by ₹300 each respectively, per tonne.

As iron ore is a key raw material in steel production, any change in its price is a reflection on the demand for the end products. In another filing, the public sector enterprise said December ore output dipped to 3.61 million tonne (MT) from 3.95 MT a year earlier.

Sri City signed MoUs with 13 firms in 2022, with promise of ₹1,200-cr. investment: MD

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Sri City has signed memoranda of understanding over the course of 2022 with 13 firms that would fetch an investment of more than ₹1,200 crore, said Ravindra Sannareddy, founder-MD.

"These investments are spread over the next few years. It would provide employment to 4,000 people," he said in an interview. Sri City is an "integrated business city" in Andhra Pradesh (A.P.), located about 60 km from Chennai,

According to him, Sri City has now become a hub for air-conditioner manufacturing with large firms having invested, or announced plans to invest, close to ₹2,000 crore over the last few years, he said.

"The entry of Blue Star, Daikin, Havells and Amber have established Sri City as the fast-emerging, air-conditioner manufacturing hub in the country. Amber produces different brands of ACs," he said.

Sri City is home to more than 200 firms from 28 countries through offering multi-product Special Economic Zone, Domestic Tariff Zone and Electronics Manufacturing Cluster services. Of these, 127 firms are operational.

Sport

Queen Envied claims Golconda Oaks

HYDERABAD: Trainer Irfan Ghatala's Queen Envied ridden by P. Trevor won the Golconda Oaks, the main attraction of Monday's (Jan. 2) races. The winner is owned by M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP & Sans Craintes Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer R.H. Sequeira and jockey Akshay Kumar scored a treble each.

1. ABERADER PLATE: STRAUSS (Suraj Narredu) 1, Flaming Falcon (B. Nikhil) 2, Soorya Vahan (Md. Ismail) 3 and City Cruise (R.S. Jodha) 4. 3, Nk and Hd. 1m 27. 79s. ₹13 (w), 12, 14 and 38 (p). SHP: 24, THP: 64, SHW: 10 and 25, FP: 28, Q: 22, Tanala: 154. Favourite: Strauss. Owner: Miss. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

2. HOVERCRAFT PLATE: N R I DOUBLEPOWER (Hindu Singh) 1, Huntingdon (Afroz Khan) 2, Golden Gazelle (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Assured Success (Surya Prakash) 4. 3-3/4, 4-1/4 and 1. 1m, 27.03s. ₹18 (w), 11, 10 and 21 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 40, SHW: 15 and 10, FP: 31, Q: 14, Tanala: 100. Favourite: N R I Doublepower. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

3. CUPID PLATE (DIV. III): LAURUS (Akshay Kumar) 1, Above The Law (Md. Ismail) 2, Top In Class (P. Trevor) 3 and Maximum Glamour (Deepak Singh) 4. 3/4, 1/2 and Nk. 1m, 13.72s. ₹59 (w), 15, 14 and 12 (p). SHP: 55, THP: 49, SHW: 18 and 54, FP: 381, Q: 190, Tanala: 13,46. Favourite: Maximum Glamour.

Rewarding a winner: HRC chairperson R. Surender Reddy presenting the Golconda Oaks winner's trophy to Arun Alagappan and Pranav Alagappan as other HRC officials look on. NAGARA GOPAL

Owners: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta & Mr. Rafaat Hussain. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

4. MOTHER TERESA PLATE: HOT SEAT (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Muaser (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Lady Danger (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Sweet Melody (Afroz Khan) 4. 1/2, 1/2 and 1. 1m, 28.95s. ₹60 (w), 17, 22 and 11 (p). SHP: 61, THP: 70, SHW: 43 and 76, FP: 462, Q: 346, Tanala: 1,522. Favourite: Lady Danger. Owners: Mr. M. Sudheer Reddy, Mr. Sharath Chandra Reddy Malipedhi & Mr. Syed Shah Faisal Hassan. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

5. A.S. KRISHNA MEMORIAL CUP: WATCH MY STRIDE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Kesariya Balam (Hindu Singh) 2, Premier Action (Afroz Khan) 3 and Top Secret (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 2-1/2 and 2. 1m, 42.45s. ₹16 (w), 15 and 17 (p). SHP: 26, THP: 31, SHW: 10 and 19, FP: 29, Q: 20, Tanala: 74. Favourite: Watch My Stride. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer : R.H. Sequeira.

6. RANGA REDDY CUP: YESTERDAY (P. Trevor) 1, Path Of Peace (Afroz Khan) 2, Francis Bacon (Surya Prakash) 3 and Just Incredible (Srinath) 4. 3-1/4, 3/4 and 2-1/4. 2m, 36.71s. ₹20 (w), 10, 20 and 36 (p). SHP: 93, THP: 79, SHW: 14 and 43, FP: 153, Q: 100, Tanala: 1,036. Favourite: Yesterday. Owners: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Mrs. Lingala Aarti Reddy. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

7. BEST OF GOLD PLATE (DIV. II): MILTON KEYNES (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Visionary (Kuldeep S) 2, Protocol (Md. Ismail) 3 and Chica Bonita (A.A. Vikrant) 4. Nk, 5-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 27.39s. ₹45 (w), 16, 12 and 24 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 47, SHW: 32 and 11, FP: 103, Q: 49, Tanala: 830. Favourite: Visionary. Owner: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

8. GOLCONDA OAKS: QUEEN ENVIED (Lord Admiral-Be Envied) (P. Trevor) 1, Hoping Cloud (Saamidd- Kalinda Snow) (Mohit Singh) 2, N R I Superpower (Win Legend-One Life To Love) (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Nugget (Excellent Art-Elouana) (Srinath) 4. Nose, 3 and 3/4. 2m, 38.46s. ₹23 (w), 16 and 24 (p). SHP: 48, THP: 27, SHW: 14 and 14, FP: 119, Q: 69, Tanala: 485. Favourite: Queen Envied. Owners: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP & Sans Craintes Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

9. WISHFUL THINKING PLATE: N R I ULTRAPOWER (Akshay Kumar) 1, Grand Duke (Gaurav Singh) 2 , Superstellar (P. Trevor) 3 and Queen Blossom (Md. Ismail) 4. 2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 41.42s. ₹30 (w), 15, 18 and 12 (p). SHP: 50, THP: 63, SHW: 12 and 27, FP: 112, Q: 67, Tanala: 370. Favourite: Superstellar. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹1,253 (75 tkts.) & 30%: 319 (126 tkts.), (ii) 1,336 (467 tkts.), 30%: 155 (1,718 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2,424 (90 tkts.), (ii) 632 (133 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 694 (39 tkts.), (ii) 492 (133 tkts.), (iii) 347 (284 tkts.).

General Atlantic should make amends in the Rani Lakshmibai Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer N. Ravinder Singh's General Atlantic, who ran second in his last start, should make amends in the Rani Lakshmibai Plate, the main event of Tuesday's (Jan. 3) races.

1 MOULANA AZAD PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m) Maiden, 4-y-o and upward rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 1.15 p.m.: 1. Ayur Tej (9) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. First Class (4) Surya Prakash 60, 3. Pancho (1) M. Madhu Babu 60, 4. Aarya (10) Abhay Singh 59, 5. Honourable Lady (7) Santosh Raj 59, 6. Sound Echo (2) Kuldeep S 58, 7. Alina (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57.5, 8. Canterbury (6) Md. Ekram Alam 57, 9. Ella Eldingar (8) Aneel 56.5 and 10. It's My Life (5) B. Nikhil 53.

1. SOUND ECHO, 2. AYUR TEJ, 3. CANTERBURY

2 CUPID PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.45: 1. Briar Ridge (3) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Unsung Hero (1) Rafique Sk. 58, 3. Angelita (6) Afroz Khan 57, 4. Miss Little Angel (8) B.R. Kumar 56, 5. Malaala (5) Ajay Kumar 55, 6. Top Diamond (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 53.5, 7. Ok Boss (7) Md. Ismail 52.5, 8. All Time Legend (9) Akshay Kumar 52 and 9. Castlerock (2) B. Nikhil 51.5.

1. ALL TIME LEGEND, 2. TOP DIAMOND, 3. BRIAR RIDGE

3 RANI LAKSHMIBAI PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.15: 1. City Of Blessing (2) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Mirana (3) Kuldeep S 60, 3. General Atlantic (1) Gaurav Singh 56, 4. Show Me Your Walk (7) Abhay Singh 55.5, 5. Char Ek Char (8) Akshay Kumar 52.5, 6. Miss Marvellous (6) Afroz Khan 51.5, 7. Painted Apache (5) Surya Prakash 51.5 and 8. Southern Act (4) Md. Ismail 51.5.

1. GENERAL ATLANTIC, 2. CHAR EK CHAR, 3. CITY OF BLESSING

4 BEST OF GOLD PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m) Maiden, 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.45: 1. Wind Sprite (5) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Nucleus (2) Mohit Singh 55.5, 3. Apex Star (1) Santosh Raj 53, 4. N R I Angel (7) Koushik 53, 5. Resurgence (4) Surya Prakash 53, 6. Cape Town (10) B.R. Kumar 52.5, 7. Saint Emilion (9) B. Nikhil 52, 8. Shubhrak (8) Abhay Singh 52, 9. Sweet Talk (3) Gaurav Singh 52 and 10. Das (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 51.5.

1. WIND SPRITE, 2. NUCLEUS, 3. RESURGENCE

5 CUPID PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.15: 1. City Of Bliss (3) Ajay Kumar 60, 2. Beauty On Parade (5) Sonu Kumar 58.5, 3. Shazam (1) Akshay Kumar 58, 4. Rising Queen (7) Md. Ismail 56.5, 5. Star Racer (4) Aneel 55.5, 6. Indian Temple (2) B. Nikhil 54, 7. Four One Four (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 53.5 and 8. Starwalt (8) Surya Prakash 53.

1. SHAZAM, 2. BEAUTY ON PARADE, 3. CITY OF BLISS

6 SAROJINI NAIDU PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.45: 1. Aerial Combat (13) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Prime Gardenia (11) Koushik 60, 3. Unmatched (7) B.R. Kumar 59.5, 4. Different (9) Aneel 58, 5. Vision Of Rose (1) Santosh Raj 58, 6. Pinatubo (2) Rafique Sk. 57, 7. Its On (3) B. Nikhil 55.5, 8. Salisbury (10) Afroz Khan 54.5, 9. Master Touch (8) Akshay Kumar 54, 10. Exclusive Luck (5) Md. Ismail 52, 11. Gusty Note (6) Gaurav Singh 52, 12. Blazing Jupiter (12) P. Ajeeth Kumar 51 and 13. Sporting Smile (4) Abhay Singh 51.

1. SALISBURY, 2. MASTER TOUCH, 3. UNMATCHED

7 MOULANA AZAD PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m) Maiden, 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4.15: 1. Challenger (9) Md. Ekram Alam 60, 2. Fresh Hope (2) Shivansh 60, 3. Euphoria (3) B. Nikhil 59, 4. Stark (4) Surya Prakash 58.5, 5. Silver Lining (8) Mukesh Kumar 58, 6. Good Tidings (7) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 7. Raniji (1) Abhay Singh 57.5, 8. Ikra (5) Aneel 57, 9. Space Time (10) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55.5 and 10. Paree (6) Sonu Kumar 53.5.

1. CHALLENGER, 2. GOOD TIDINGS, 3. SPACE TIME

8 SAROJINI NAIDU PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. Angel Tesoro (8) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Silk (13) Deepak Singh 60, 3. Golden Forza (2) Santosh Raj 59, 4. Ice Berry (6) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 5. Indian King (1) Md. Ismail 57, 6. Explosive (11) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 7. Pedro Planet (5) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 8. Royal Star (9) Afroz Khan 54.5, 9. Coming Home (7) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 10. Blue Brigade (4) B. Nikhil 52.5, 11. Fatuma (12) Gaurav Singh 51.5, 12. Sorry Darling (10) Surya Prakash 51 and 13. Special Effort (3) Abhay Singh 51.

1. COMING HOME, FATUMA, 3. GOLDEN FORZA

Day's Best: **ALL TIME LEGEND**

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

A DREAM

Playing Tests in India is something I've always wanted to do, says Agar

Australia all-rounder Ashton Agar is relishing the prospect of bowling on spin-friendly sub-continent wickets during the four-Test series against India in February. Agar, who was included in Australia's squad for the third Test against South Africa following Cameron Green's injury, said he always dreamt of playing red-ball cricket in India.

SETBACK

Martina Navratilova diagnosed with throat and breast cancer

Tennis legend Martina Navratilova said on Monday she has been diagnosed with throat and breast cancer. The Czech–American, who won 59 Grand Slam titles across singles and doubles, added that the cancer was in Stage 1, and the prognosis are good, with treatments to begin next week.

INCREDIBLE INSPIRATION

To many of the next-gen guys Roger is still an idol, says Cilic

The 2023 season will be the first in more than two decades to not have Roger Federer, but Marin Cilic said the Swiss will continue to be an idol. "We all never wanted Roger to leave. He was an incredible inspiration… and to many of these next-gen guys probably still is an idol," the Croat said in Pune.

NOT MATCH-READY

Milne pulls out of India and Pakistan tours

New Zealand pacer Adam Milne on Monday withdrew himself from the white-ball tours of Pakistan and India due to lack of preparation. Milne finished the recent home series against India with a tight hamstring and subsequently had his return delayed for the Wellington Firebirds, missing two Ford Trophy matches in December.

India will look to erase sour Asia Cup memories as it takes on Sri Lanka

Hardik, leading a young squad, insists there is no thought of 'settling scores'; the extremely competitive Lankans will be relying on spin twins Hasaranga and Theekshana to draw on their IPL experience

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav were among the few bright spots for India's men's cricket team in a largely forgettable 2022. The duo will start the New Year at the helm of affairs of the T20I team as India looks to continue its enviable record in bilateral series.

Hardik, the captain, with Surya as his deputy will shepherd a young India squad against neighbour Sri Lanka in a three-match T20I series, starting at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday.

After bowing out of the Asia Cup with a loss to Sri Lanka in September, India's young brigade will be keen to avenge the loss with a whitewash in the series. While the captain stressed on India not looking to "settle any scores", he added that India will ensure the Sri Lankans feel like "playing India in India".

The task, though, will be easier said than done. Sri Lanka is an extremely competitive unit, especially in the subcontinent. It will be relying on its spin twins of Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana to use their prowess and utilise the Indian Premier League experience to pressurise the Indian batters.

Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis will be eager to continue their good work at the top of the order. In addition, a fit Avishka Fernando will further bolster the islanders' batting armoury.

India, on the other hand, will hope that Ishan Kishan will carry on his exploits from the ODIs in Bangladesh at the top of the order. It will be interesting to see who his opening partner would be. If India's pre-match training was any indication, Shubman Gill is likely to be handed his debut in the shortest format.

Bowling combo

Similarly, India will also face a conundrum in selecting its bowling combination. Yuzvendra Chahal, the lone leggie in the squad, faces stiff competition from spin-bowling all-rounders Axar Patel and Washington Sundar.

Arshdeep Singh will be leading the pace attack and Umran Malik's raw pace all but makes him a certainty. Whether India prefers Harshal Patel as the specialst death bowler or hands a debut to Shivam Mavi or Mukesh Kumar will be a point to ponder for Hardik and head coach Rahul Dravid.

The teams (from):

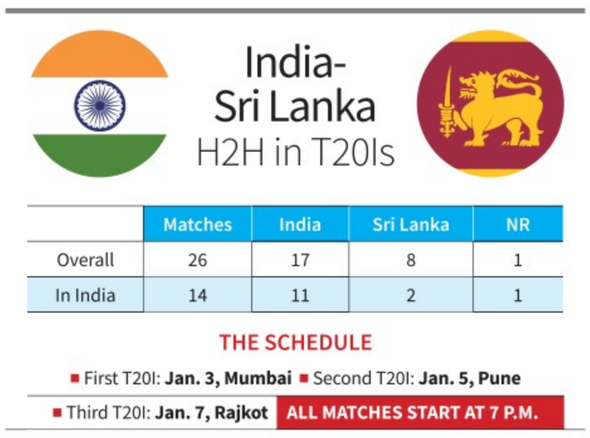
India: Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Suryakumar Yadav (Vice-Capt.), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Sanju Samson (wk), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi and Mukesh Kumar.

Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (Capt.), Wanindu Hasaranga (Vice-Capt.), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Sadeera Samarawickrama (wk), Kusal Mendis (wk), Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Ashen Bandara, Maheesh Theekshana, Chamika Karunaratne, Dilshan Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha, Dunith Wellalage, Pramod Madushan, Lahiru Kumara and Nuwan Thushara.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

New year, new mission: Indian players warm up for the first T20I against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede. EMMANUAL YOGINI

> India is a very strong side and we need to play good cricket. It's tough to beat India in India. We have experience in our camp. We're looking forward for the first game and that will set the tone for the remainder of the tour
>
> **SHANAKA**
> Sri Lanka captain



	Matches	India	Sri Lanka	NR
Overall	26	17	8	1
In India	14	11	2	1

THE SCHEDULE

■ First T20I: **Jan. 3, Mumbai** ■ Second T20I: **Jan. 5, Pune**
■ Third T20I: **Jan. 7, Rajkot** ALL MATCHES START AT 7 P.M.

I know the language of hard work, says Hardik

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Hardik Pandya, the new T20I captain, is known for his clean-hitting. Instead of dead-batting, the all-rounder middled virtually every question he faced in the pre-match media interaction on Monday. *Excerpts:*

On managing his workload: I know the language of hard work. I don't think I know any other language in my life. I have been thrown here and there and the only thing that has got me back is my hard work. So, how I am going to manage is through my hard work. Keep working hard and make sure I look after my body which I do. Injuries and all are part of the game, I cannot change it.

On his resolution for 2023: The biggest (is) to win the World Cup. I don't think there can be a bigger resolution than that. We will try everything possible to achieve it. Things are looking bright, and let's hope it is (good).

On Rishabh Pant's mishap: What happened is very unfortunate. No one has control over it. As a team we wish him all the best, our love and prayers are always with him. Wish him a speedy recovery. Obviously he was a very important part of the team, now everyone knows the situation and lot of other people can get opportunities.

On avenging the Asia Cup loss against Sri Lanka: We are not looking to settle anything. We want to play good cricket. Yes, we will make them feel like we are in India, don't worry about that. I assure and promise you they will feel that they are playing an international team and that too India in India. We don't need to go and sledge them, our body language is enough for them to feel a little intimidated which we will do.

On Suryakumar Yadav playing his first international game in his hometown as vice-captain: I have said this in the past about Surya. He played international cricket late. I was always keen from 2020 for him to be part of the Indian team. But unfortunately it was not to be. I hope he continues the run for the Indian team and flourishes more in his life and scores more runs and makes sure that he helps the team to win as well.

Chetan front-runner to continue in selection panel

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Chetan Sharma is likely to continue as the chairman of the senior men's selection panel for the next term. The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) appointed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) conducted interviews of the shortlisted candidates on Tuesday.

The CAC – comprising former India cricketers Ashok Malhotra, Sulakshana Naik and Jatin Paranjape - interviewed 12 candidates on Tuesday. *The Hindu* could confirm eight candidates who appeared for the interview.

Besides Chetan and Harvinder Singh – the two members of the outgoing selection committee who had reapplied - Shiv Sundar Das, Amay Khurasiya, Ajay Ratra, Salil Ankola, S. Sharath and Connor Williams were also interviewed.

A BCCI insider confirmed that Chetan is the front-runner to continue for another term. It will be interesting to see the other members of the panel selected by the CAC.

Mumbai City FC thumps Odisha FC, tops table

ISL-9

Press Trust of India
BHUBANESWAR

Lallianzuala Chhangte struck a brace and set up another as Mumbai City FC defeated Odisha FC 4-2 in a second-half attack to extend their winning streak to seven matches and take the lead in the Indian Super League here on Monday.

But the Mizoram midfielder opened the scoring in the 55th combining well with Jorge Diaz. Diego Maurcio equalised six minutes later but Mumbai returned stronger to score through Bipin Singh (68th).

Chhangte set up substitute Alberto Noguera (86th) to make it 3-1 before he completed his brace in 79th. Mauricio scored in the 90th minute but it was merely a consolation.

Fans mourn Pele at public viewing in Brazil stadium

Associated Press
SANTOS

An emotional Brazil began paying its final respects to football legend Pele with a 24-hour wake at the stadium where he first took the world's breath away with his exploits.

Hundreds of fans began filing on Monday morning into the Vila Belmiro, where the coffin bearing the remains of "O Rei" was displayed in the centre of the field, before a funeral procession and private burial scheduled for Tuesday.

After Pele's funeral, his casket will be ushered through the streets of Santos before his burial. Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and other dignitaries are expected to attend. Pele had undergone treatment for colon cancer since 2021. The medical centre where he had been hospitalised said he died of multiple organ failure.

Paying her respects: Marcia Aoki, the widow of Pele, mourns over his body at Vila Belmiro stadium. AP

Krajinovic surmounts a spirited challenge from Nagal

TATA OPEN

N. Sudarshan
PUNE

Sumit Nagal put up a spirited fight before losing to Serbia's Filip Krajinovic 4-6, 6-4, 4-6 in the opening round of the Tata Open Maharashtra at the Balewadi Stadium here on Monday.

When Krajinovic led by a set and had Nagal down two breakpoints at 2-2 in the second set, the contest seemingly had just one winner. But the Indian turned it around admirably and was alive until deep in the third set before the capricious tie, that lasted 2 hours and 24 minutes, settled in Krajinovic's hands.

If he had won against the World No.54, it would have been 25-year-old Nagal's second-biggest victory, after the triumph over the then No.22 Cristian Garin at Buenos Aires in March 2021.

For nearly a set and a half, Nagal didn't seem like coming anywhere near that feat. The 6'10" Serb's power was something he couldn't handle and Krajinovic's booming serve fetched many a free point. And when the rallies stretched, Krajinovic's fiercely accurate double-fisted backhand often decided matters.

But Nagal's hold to 3-2 in the second set after saving two breakpoints triggered a shift. Even as Krajinovic moved Nagal end to end and hurried him into his shots, the latter swung hard and swung well.

The hold to 5-4 showed Nagal had finally found the tennis to match Krajinovic's, with a brave one-two punch and a put-away volley to end a well-constructed point being the standout moments.

With Krajinovic serving at deuce, 4-5, Nagal made the play by stepping into the court, dictating a rally and forcing a weak backhand into the net. That clearly unsettled the Serb, who on setpoint went for the audacious but ended up botching a drop shot which Nagal slapped away into the open court with glee.

At the start of the third set, Nagal had two break-points in the second game to wrest complete control of the match, but couldn't. Krajinovic soon tightened his game, and at 4-4, when he pressured Nagal's serve, the home favourite didn't have a higher gear to shift into. From 30-15, Nagal missed an easy forehand, landed a drop into the net and sent an inside-out long. The resistance had ended.

Clinching shot: Krajinovic's fiercely accurate double-fisted backhand often decided matters. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"If I can play matches like this, I'll be really happy," Nagal said later. "It's a very high level, and matches like this will not only make you better fitness-wise but also, you learn to stay calm and your shot selection gets better."

Earlier in the day, 15-year-old Manas Manoj Dhamne was fleetingly impressive on his tour-level debut before losing 2-6, 4-6 to United States' Michael Mmoh.

The results (first round):

6-Filip Krajinovic (Srb) bt Sumit Nagal 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; Michael Mmoh (USA) bt Manas Manoj Dhamne 6-2, 6-4; Roberto Carballes Baena (Esp) bt Bernabe Zapata Miralles (Esp) 6-1, 7-5; Tallon Griekspoor (Ned) bt 7-Jaume Munar (Esp) 6-4, 7-5; Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) bt Chun Hsin Tseng 6-0, 6-3; Laslo Djere (Srb) bt 5-Alex Molcan 6-2, 6-4; Marco Cecchinato (Ita) bt Nikoloz Basilashvili (Geo) 6-2, 6-2.

INBRIEF

Shaheen Afridi resumes rehab for World Cup injury

Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi resumed rehabilitation in Karachi on Monday for the knee injury he suffered during the T20 World Cup final against England in Melbourne. He landed awkwardly while taking Harry Brook's catch and left the field. Shaheen returned to bowl the 16th over but unbearable pain forced him to leave again after the first delivery.

Pakistan bounces back after Conway hits century

Opener Devon Conway led New Zealand's early domination of Pakistan on day one of the second Test in Karachi with a knock of 122, before the hosts struck back in the final session to limit their opponents to 309 for six at stumps on Monday. Electing to bat, the visitors started strongly as Conway stitched together partnerships of 134 and 100 with Tom Latham and Kane Williamson respectively in front of a modest crowd at the National Stadium. Conway, who scored a total of 110 runs in the first Test, hit 16 boundaries and one six in his 191-ball knock to notch up his fourth century in Test cricket. The two-match series is tied at 0-0 after the opening game, which was also played in Karachi, ended in a draw.

The scores: New Zealand 309/6 in 90 overs (Tom Latham 71, Devond Conway 122, Agha Salman 3/55) vs. Pakistan. **Toss:** New Zealand.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Pakistan vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.
Tata Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 2 p.m. onwards
India vs Sri Lanka: 1st T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.15 a.m. (Wednesday)

Karnataka will have to be at its best

In the clash against Chhattisgarh, the home team will be buoyed by the recent success of Manish Pandey, who lends a great deal of stability to the often inconsistent middle-order

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Karnataka will have its task cut out against Chhattisgarh in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'C' encounter which commences at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Tuesday.

The match was originally scheduled to be held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, before being shifted to Bengaluru.

Both teams have 13 points from three games, and have shown signs of quality.

Karnataka enters the fixture on the back of a draw against Goa, where the latter survived the follow-on.

Chhattisgarh started the campaign in grand style, recording two wins on the trot – against Pondicherry and Services.

The last outing, however, resulted in a seven-wicket loss to Kerala.

The home team will be buoyed by the recent success of Manish Pandey, who smashed an unbeaten 208 at Goa.

Pandey's big knock lends a great deal of stability to Karnataka's often inconsistent middle-order.

Chhattisgarh will also have to contend with opener R. Samarth, who has struck three hundreds on the trot.

More out

On the bowling front, Karnataka will miss the services of fast bowler Ronit More, who picked up an injury in the Goa match.

Speedster M. Venkatesh, yet to make his First Class debut, has replaced More. V. Koushik, who has been in the squad but is yet to get a look in, is another fast bowler available to take More's spot.

Chhattisgarh's good run has been powered by the exploits of left-arm spinner Ajay Mandal.

With 24 wickets, Mandal is the third highest wicket-taker of the tournament. The 26-year-old also hit his fourth First Class century, against Pondicherry.

The batting relies heavily on Amandeep Khare and Harpreet Singh. While Harpreet made 152 in the last match, Khare recorded an unbeaten 125 earlier against Services.

Karnataka, which has one win in three attempts, will have to be at its best to gain full points here.

RANJI TROPHY SCHEDULE (ROUND FOUR)

Elite: Group A: Uttar Pradesh vs. Haryana (Lucknow); Baroda vs. Himachal Pradesh (Vadodara); Odisha vs. Nagaland (Cuttack); Uttarakhand vs. Bengal (Dehradun).
Group B: Maharashtra vs. Assam (Pune); Andhra vs. Hyderabad (Vizianagaram); Saurashtra vs. Delhi (Rajkot); Mumbai vs. Tamil Nadu (Mumbai).
Group C: Karnataka vs. Chhattisgarh (Bengaluru); Services vs. Pondicherry (Delhi); Kerala vs. Goa (Thiruvananthapuram); Rajasthan vs. Jharkhand (Jaipur).
Group D: Gujarat vs. Punjab (Valsad).
Tripura vs. Chandigarh (Agartala); Railways vs. Jammu & Kashmir (Surat); Madhya Pradesh vs. Vidarbha (Indore).
Plate: Manipur vs. Mizoram (Ahmedabad); Arunachal Pradesh vs. Meghalaya (Anand); Bihar vs. Sikkim (Patna).

Red-hot: Karnataka would look to Samarth, who has three straight tons, to come good against Chhattisgarh. FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

BCYA 'A' gets the better of Royal HC

BCYA 'A' defeated Royal HC 7-3 in the KSHA 'B' Division hockey league on Monday. In another match, Sandeep got the better of Bellary 4-1

The results: BCYA 'A' 7 (Govind Nag 10, 28, S. Pavan 15, Tejas Chavan 36, Siva 38, Vinod Kumar 49, Laxmikant Kowale 59) bt Royal 3 (Suprith 1, 49, Yogendra 39).

Sandeep 4 (Basavaraj 17, Sunder Raj 24, 42, Harsha 48) bt Bellary 1 (Kushal 40).

Vehicles steamrollers RS Sports

Vehicles FC whipped RS Sports FC 8-0 in the BDFA 'B' division football league here.

The results: Postal Dept. 3 (Nandakumar 8, Sunil Kumar 33-og, H. Subba 69) bt Roots 1 (B. Gambheer 26).

Vehicles 8 (Surya Prakash 7, 34, K. Karthick 27, 64, S. Lahesh 38, C. Joel 40, N. Akshay 42, R. Naveenkumar 48) bt RS Sports 0.

Chabria to take on Azeez for the honours

B.N. Chabria took out S.N. Bharath Kumar 100-20 in the semifinals of the M. Chenniappan memorial veterans billiards tournament. In the other last-four clash, Nadeem Azeez defeated P.S. Sairam 100-37.

FIFA to ask all countries to name a stadium for Pele

Agence France-Presse
SANTOS

FIFA will ask all the world's countries to name a stadium for Brazilian football legend Pele, Gianni Infantino said on Monday at the late icon's wake. "We're going to ask every country in the world to name one of their football stadiums with the name of Pele. We're here with great sadness. Pele is eternal. He's a global icon of football."

Thapa, Tokas and Ashish make the quarterfinals

NATL. BOXING

Sports Bureau
HISAR

Shiva Thapa, Rohit Tokas and Ashish Kumar recorded wins to progress to the quarterfinals in their respective weight categories in the National boxing here on Monday.

Thapa (63.5kg), who got a first round bye, dominated his round of 16 bout against Jaswinder Singh and secured a unanimous 5-0 decision.

Tokas (67kg) displayed his attacking game to post a well-deserved 5-0 win over Jai Singh. Ashish (80kg) defeated Sumit Poonia 5-0 to make it to the last eight.

Important results (preliminary rounds): 48kg: A. Vignesh Kumar (TN) bt Rohit (DNH) RSC-R1, Vinay Kumar (AIP) bt Ram Naresh (MP) 5-0; **51kg:** Zoram Muana (Miz) bt Amal Uday (Ker) 5-0, Roshan Zamir (Goa) bt B. Ramakrishnan (TN) 4-1, Mohit Singh (Mah) bt Rahul Prajapat (Raj) 4-1; **54kg:** Ananta Chopade (RSPB) bt Mohd. Bilal (Ker) RSC-R2, Sachin (SSCB) bt Sohil Khan (AIP) 5-0, Ankit (Chd) bt Sandeep Kumar (UP) 4-1; **57kg:** Rishikesh Goud (Mah) bt Sonu (Bih) 5-0, Sachin Siwach (RSPB) bt Neeraj (Har) 5-0; **60kg:** Smarak Sahoo (Odi) bt Lokesh Choudhary (Raj) 4-1, Dikshant Dahiya (Kar) bt Tata Tachirang (Aru) 5-0, Shivam Tiwari (AIP) bt Savio Michael (Tel) 5-0; **63.5kg:** Ashish (AIP) bt Himanshu Sangwan (Chd) 5-0, Shiva Thapa (Asm) bt Jaswinder Singh (Del) 5-0; **67kg:** Akash (SSCB) bt P.C. Remruatdika (Miz) 5-0, Rohit Tokas (RSPB) bt Jai Singh (Cht) 5-0; **71kg:** Dinesh (RSPB) bt Sankar Thapa (AIP) 5-0; **80kg:** Ashish Kumar (HP) bt Sumit Poonia (Raj) 5-0.

Ajith downs a fighting Sadananda, takes senior men's 73kg gold

NATL. WEIGHTLIFTING

K. Keerthivasan
NAGERCOIL

As expected, N. Ajith of RSPB clinched the senior men's 73kg gold medal with a total lift of 313kg in the National weightlifting championships here on Monday.

Facing stiff competition from L. Sadananda Singh of Services, Ajith was under pressure to perform as the Services lifter matched the reigning clean and jerk record holder (174) for a good part of the contest.

Sadananda fought hard but had to settle for silver medal with a total of 296kg.

Unhappy

The 23-year-old Vellore-based Ajith, however, was not happy with his lifts.

"Before the contest, I had wanted to create a new record in clean & jerk and total. But once I failed to lift 165kg in clean & jerk in my first attempt, I knew my hopes of a record were as good as over."

N. Ajith. K. KEERTHIVASAN

The results:
73kg: Senior men: 1. N. Ajith (RSPB) 143 (snatch), 170 (clean & jerk), 313 (total); 2. Sadananda Singh (SSCB) 137, 159, 296; 3. Mihir Kanta Sethi (Odi) 126, 160, 286.
Junior men: 1. Kiran Marahe (Mah) 122, 155, 277; 2. Shiva Choudhary (Del) 123, 150, 273; 3. Prabal Protim Gogoi (Asm) 119, 154, 273.
Youth men: 1. Sairaj Pardeshi (Mah) 117, 139, 256; 2. Sharthak Thapa (Goa) 111, 143, 254; 3. S. Parandhaman (TN) 113, 140, 253.
67kg: Senior men: 1. T. Madhavan (TN) 129, 157, 286; Subhash Lahre (SSCB) 125, 158, 263; 3. Markio Tario (ARN) 122, 158, 283.
Junior men: 1. Gulshan Kumar (Bih) 119, 159, 278; 2. Aniruddha Nipane (Mah) 121, 156, 277; 3. Bengia Tani (ARN) 121, 151, 272.

Karthik grabs sole lead before final round

NATIONAL CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

A second successive top-board victory with the dark pieces brightened Karthik Venkataraman's prospects of winning the National chess title here on Tuesday.

A day after upstaging Abhijeet Gupta in an unusual finish, Karthik benefited from a dubious rook-for-knight trade-off by the country's latest Grandmaster Koustav Chatterjee on Monday and won in 35 moves.

On a day when the top-four boards saw decisive verdicts, the triumph gave Karthik (9.5 points) a half-point lead ahead of his 13th and final round clash with N.R. Visakh (9). Abhijeet and Sayantan Das are the other two players with 9 points.

Koustav, Aronyak Ghosh, N.B. Hari Madhavan, L.R. Srihari, Mitrabha Guha and P. Shyaamnikhil follow at 8.5 points.

Abhijeet, who plays Sayantan in the final round, needs a victory to challenge for the title. Ahead of the final round, this former champion enjoys the best tie-break score.

Facing Aronyak, Abhijeet capitalised on a weak defence and eventually threatened to capture a knight before the youngster resigned on the 34th move.

Sayantan ended the nine-round unbeaten run of Madhavan in just 27 moves. After Madhavan's premature aggression on the kingside, Sayantan launched a measured counter-attack and threatened to gain a knight. Sensing more damage, Madhavan gave up.

Vishakh's superior understanding of an end-game involving a bishop each and pawns came handy in ending Deepan Chakravarthy's resistance in 46 moves.

Leading results:
12th round: Koustav Chatterjee (8.5) lost to Karthik Venkataraman (9.5); Abhijeet Gupta (9) bt Aronyak Ghosh (8.5); N.B. Hari Madhavan (8.5) lost to Sayantan Das (9); Deepak Chakkravarthy (8) lost to N.R. Vishakh (9); G.B. Harshavardhan (8) drew with L.R. Srihari (8.5); Anuj Shrivatri (8) drew with S. P. Sethuraman (8); Vedant Panesar (8) drew with P. Iniyan (8); N.R. Vignesh (8) drew with Sandipan Chanda (8).

R.R. Laxman (7.5) lost to P. Shyaamnikhil (8.5); Mehar Chinna Reddy (7.5) lost to Mitrabha Guha (8.5); M.R. Venkatesh (7.5) drew with S. Nitin (7.5); Leon Mendonca (7.5) drew with Subhayan Kundu (7.5); Deep Sengupta (7.5) drew with V.A.V. Rajesh (7.5); Arghyadip Das (7.5) drew with Utkal Ranjan Sahoo (7.5); Mohammad Nubairshah Shaikh (7.5) drew with Soham Kamotra (7.5); Audi Ameya (8) bt K. Ratnakaran (7); Sanket Chakravarty (7.5) drew with Kushagra Mohan (7.5); Ajay Krishna (8) bt S. Badrinath (7).

Divya beats Mary to take over as leader

NATL. WOMEN'S CHESS

Sports Bureau

Divya Deshmukh strengthened her title-defence by beating overnight leader Mary Ann Gomes to emerge as the new leader at seven points after eight rounds of the MPL National women's chess championship at Kolhapur on Monday.

Mary (6.5 points) slipped to the second spot, half-a-point ahead of Isha Sharma, Sakshi Chitlange, top seed Vantika Agrawal, Soumya Swaminathan, C.M.N. Sunyuktha and Sreeja Seshadri.

Seeded two, Divya dominated Mary after the early exchanges. An extra kingside pawn gave Divya a clear advantage going deeper into the game.

Her proactive approach earned her vital space advantage that severely hampered Mary's chances. Mary eventually gave up when faced with the prospects of an immediate loss of a bishop or the game in 59 moves.

Even as the boards involving Isha and Sakshi and the one featuring Vantika and Bhakti Kulkarni ended in draws, Soumya, Sunyuktha and Sreeja made progress at the expense of P. Supreetha, Rucha Pujari and Hajra Chandreyee, in that order.

Leading results: Eighth round: Divya Deshmukh (7) bt Mary Ann Gomes (6.5); Isha Sharma (6) drew with Sakshi Chitlange (6); Vantika Agrawal (6) drew with Bhakti Kulkarni (5.5); P. Supreetha (5) lost to Soumya Swaminathan (6); Rucha Pujari (5) lost to C.M.N. Sunyuktha (6); Srija Seshadri (6) bt Hajra Chandreyee (5); Aashna Makhija (5.5) drew with Nisha Mohota (5.5); V. Varshini (5.5) drew with Samriddhaa Ghosh (5.5); G. Tejaswini (5) drew with M. Mahalakshmi (5); Mitali Patil (5) drew with Arpita Mukherjee (5); Vishwa Shah (5.5) bt Bristy Mukherjee (4.5); A.G. Nimmy (5.5) bt Rajanya Datta (4.5); Saniya Rafique Tadavi (5.5) bt Swati Ghate (4.5).

Day to remember: Australia's campaign may have ended, but de Minaur will take home the satisfaction of having beaten Nadal. GETTY IMAGES

USA to meet Britain in the knockouts of United Cup

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

World No. 2 Rafael Nadal slumped to a second-straight defeat at the United Cup on Monday in a setback to his Australian Open preparations, but Stefanos Tsitsipas and Iga Swiatek were both on song.

There was also more misery for former World No. 2 Alexander Zverev, who, like Nadal, suffered a second loss to start his season, this time at the hands of Taylor Fritz.

Spanish 22-time Grand Slam winner Nadal surprisingly crashed in his season-opening match on Saturday to 14th-ranked Cameron Norrie. And he again succumbed after winning the first set, going down 6-3, 1-6, 5-7 to Australia's 24th-ranked Alex de Minaur here.

The results: In Sydney: Spain vs Australia 1-1 {Rafael Nadal lost to Alex de Minaur 6-3, 1-6, 5-7; Nuria Parrizas-Diaz bt Maddison Inglis 6-1, 6-3}.

USA leads Germany 2-0 {Taylor Fritz bt Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-4; Maddison Keys bt Jule Niemeier 6-2, 6-3}.

In Brisbane: Italy leads Norway 2-0 {Martina Trevisan bt Malene Helgo 7-5, 3-6, 6-4; Lorenzo Musetti bt Viktor Durasovic 7-6(6), 6-3}.

Poland vs Switzerland 1-1 {Iga Swiatek bt Belinda Bencic 6-3, 7-6(3); Daniel Michalski lost to Marc-Andrea Husler 3-6, 2-6}.

In Perth: Croatia vs France 1-1 {Donna Vekic bt Alice Cornet 6-4, 6-3;

Greece vs Belgium 1-1 {Despina Papamichail lost to Alison van Uytvanck 7-5, 2-6, 6-3; Stefanos Tsitsipas bt David Goffin 6-3, 6-2}.